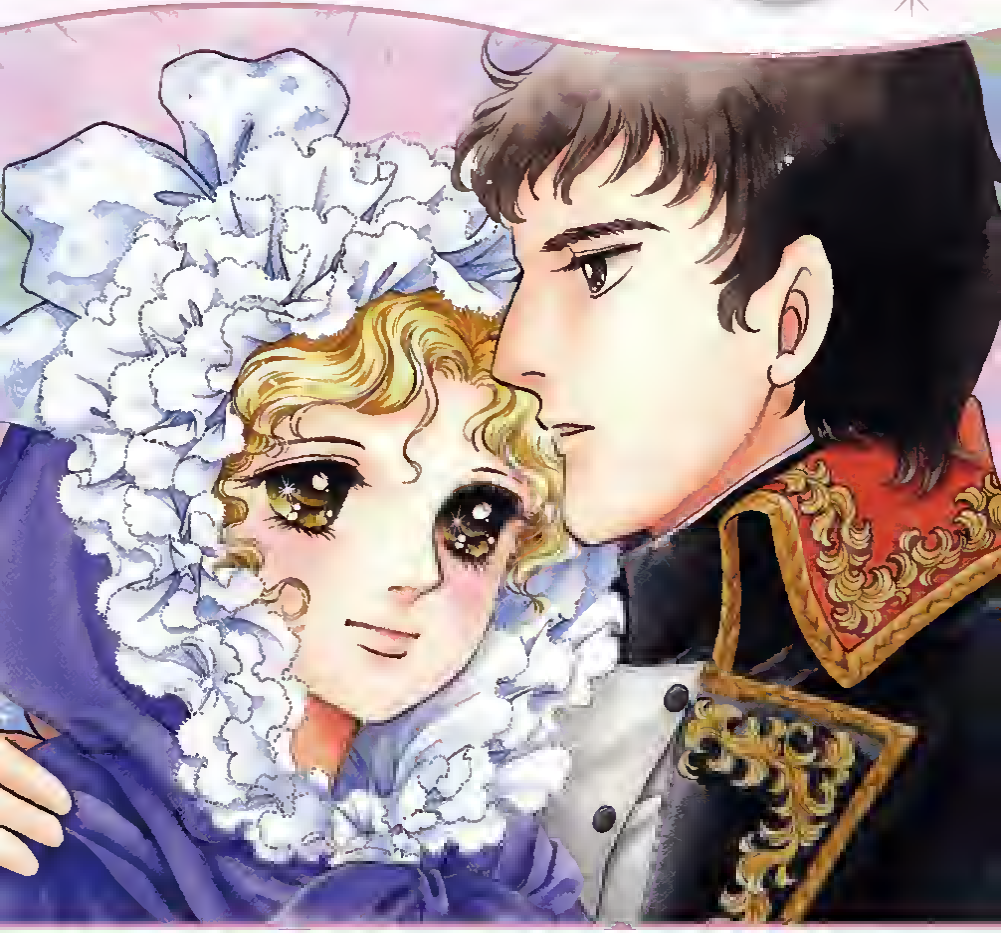
3

Josephine the French Rose



Comic artwork by Yumiko Igarashi
Story by Kaoru Ochiai

Josephine the French Rose

Manga art by Yumiko Igarashi

Story by Kaoru Ochiai

Josephine of the Roses (III)

Josephine of the Roses Part III

Illustration collection

CONTENTS

* About this story: Born as the daughter of poor nobles on the French colony island of Martinique, Rose is told about her future by Eliama, a fortune teller, and later marries Viscount Alexandre Beauharnais of Paris. She moves to Paris with her nanny's son Agathe, who is actually her half-brother, but her husband's lover plots against her and the couple ends up separated. Following the French Revolution, the Reign of Terror gets underway and Alexandre is arrested. Rose pleads for mercy but ends up getting imprisoned herself. Alexandre is executed, and as the time for Rose's death approaches, Agathe decides to assassinate Robespierre... This a work of fiction based on fact.

Josephine of the Roses
薔薇のジョゼフィーヌ
Part III

I will definitely
assassinate
Robespierre.
That had been my first encounter with Napoleon Bonaparte
Do it at close range

Yes, only by executing the aristocrats and all those who oppose us will we create an ideal country
Mean-while, at city hall,
Terror is victory!

But the assembly has arrested us
Yeah
The assembly is out to crush the Jacobins
You're thinking too much. You were immediately released
The National Convention is full of enemies
Yeah, they're out to expunge us
In a sense this is their coup d'état
There is no need for delusion and unwarranted fear

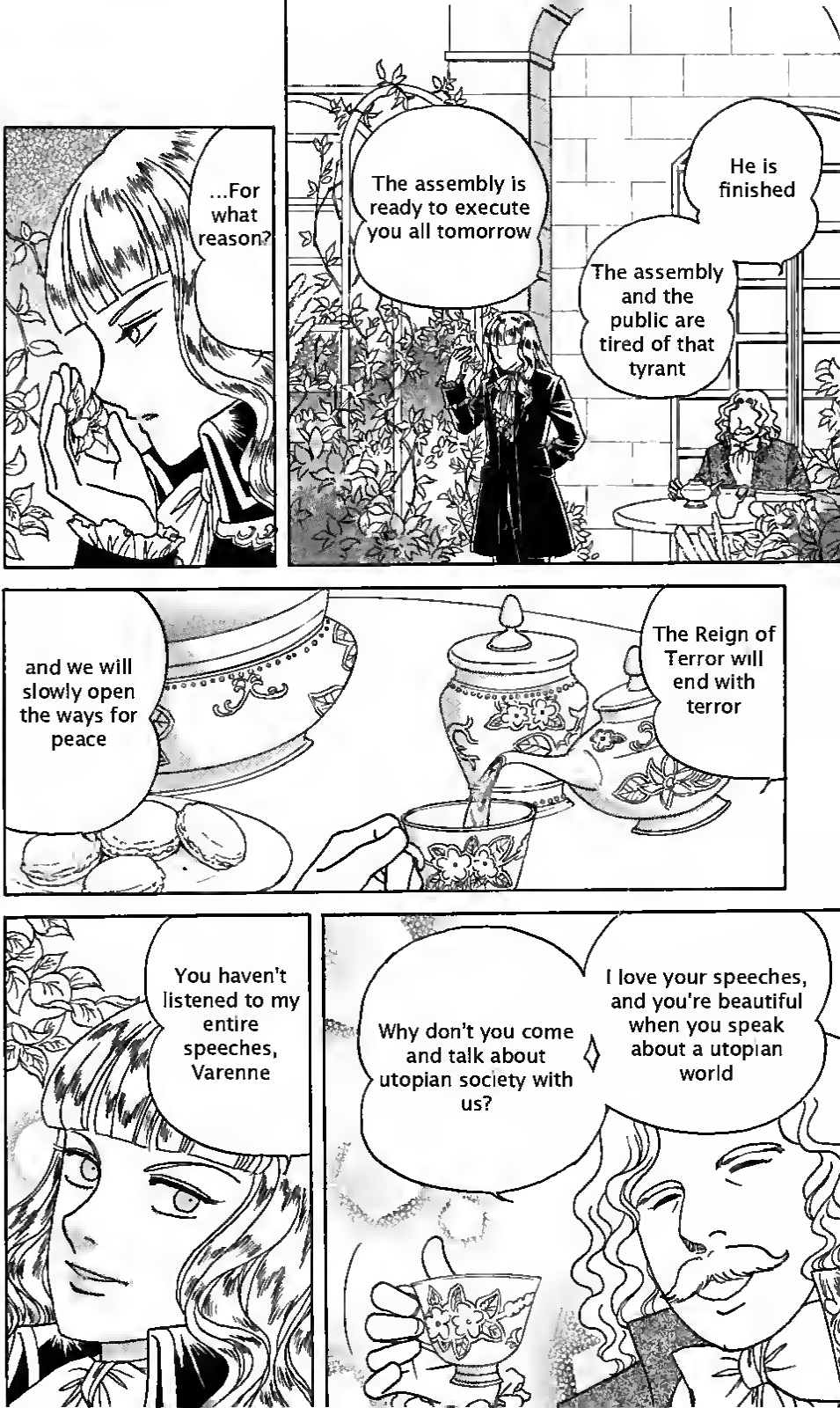
I'm meeting Varenne, a Brene
perhaps he is indeed an enemy
...Who are you seeing?
You're not...
...I have an appoint-ment to see someone
so I shall excuse myself
Are you coming back, friend?
.....
Is he planning to betray us?
We've gotta do something ourselves
clomp clomp
See you tomorrow, Max
click...
Probably

July 28 1794 Maximilien Robespierre had been alone at city hall
argh
All those soldiers they once had hiding about–and now there's only this one
grr...
creak
Robespierre and the Jacobins are no doubt coming close to their end

Still on guard duty?
Go home
Do it at close range
slip

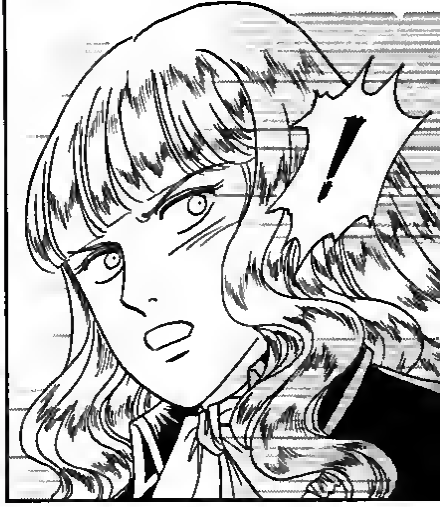
bang
click
click
click
I'm ordering a change in shift
Are you...are you Robespierre's guard?
Charles-André Merda with the military police

...What's he doing?
phew
No...
Are there other guards?
Go on home now
Good! Fine!
dash
...He's sitting quietly
What is this? He seems pretty nervous
That's right, Saint-Just
You're telling me to betray Robespierre?


...For what reason?
The assembly is ready to execute you all tomorrow
He is finished
The assembly and the public are tired of that tyrant
and we will slowly open the ways for peace
The Reign of Terror will end with terror
You haven't listened to my entire speeches, Varenne
Why don't you come and talk about utopian society with us?
I love your speeches, and you're beautiful when you speak about a utopian world

...It's a pity, Saint-Just
that a utopian world ends when friends are put in the same grave
My closing words
Entire?
Mr. Varenne, it's Robespierre
He's been assassinated by a guard, Charles-André Merda!
. . .
The three leaders and their 19 supporters will be executed in the public square tomorrow evening

He was killed at city hall
Where?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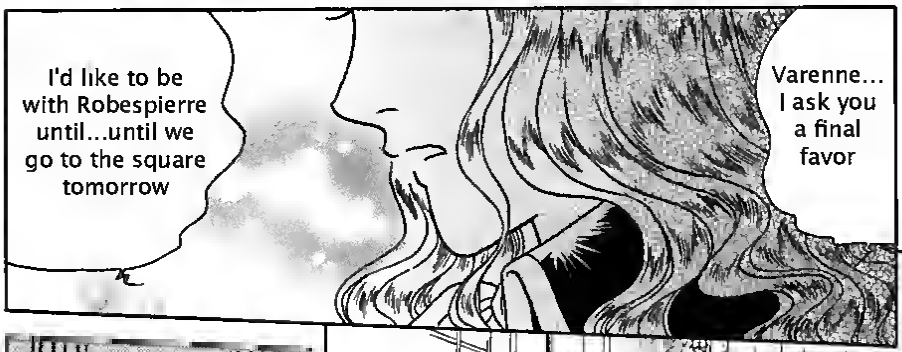
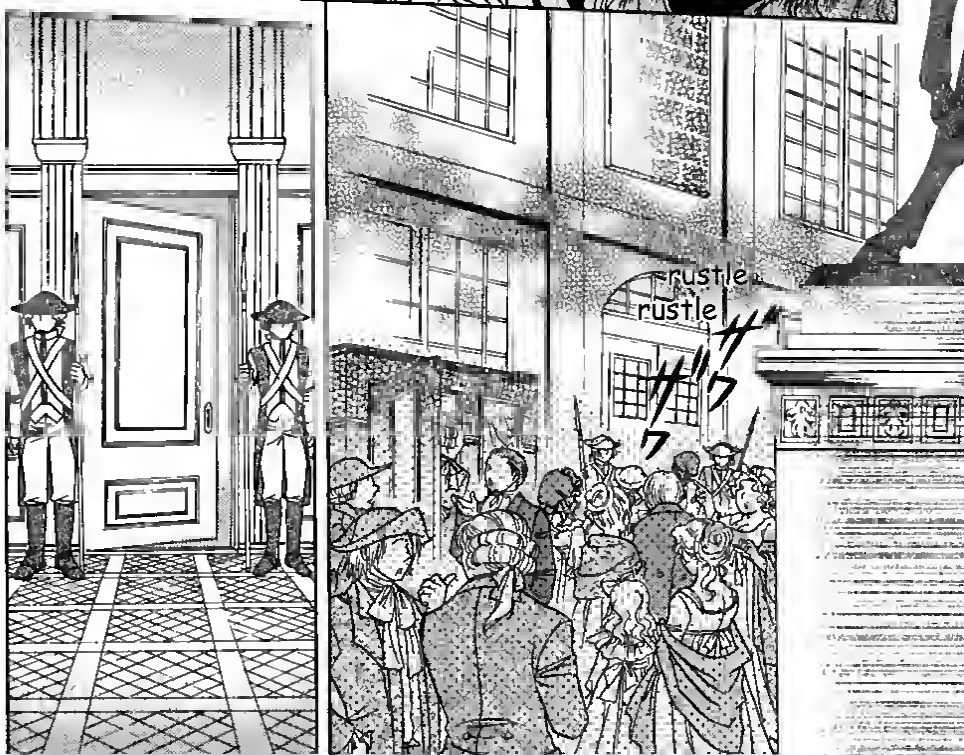

I'd like to be with Robespierre until...until we go to the square tomorrow
Varenne... I ask you a final favor


rustle
rustle
ザワ
ザワ

It's been a whirlwind as we fought for a new France
Five years since the revolu-tion-
Max...your body's still warm. .
I'd like to be alone with him
Everyone please leave

Who is it?
rustle
Who are you?
ugh ...
He found the passage by the book-shelves and suddenlyap peared
It's the guy who came with Mme. Beauhar-nais
What happe-ned?
I am a guard, sir
Aga-the?

Agathe ...!
I heard a gunshot as soon as the book-shelves closed in
He's the one who shot Mr. Robes-pierre
You are really something!
Going this far for that woman!
I knew you had potential...
Listen, don't tell anyone about this. It'll be your fault, not protecting Robespierre
Is that clear?

Max...
praise me one more time
Both he and I were destined to be executed tomorrow
My friend–
I will take this secret to my grave

On July29, Saint-Just and 19 others were executed

71 more beheadings followed on July 30

and 12 more on July 31

The terror was the only way for the new government to end the Reign of Terror

You are wonderful, Saint-Just

As with God, it is a miracle to discover you-

After shooting Robespierre, I stood outside the gates at Carmes
I was determined to wait for Mademoiselle's release, no matter how many days or months it took
You... are you crying?
I'm just tired
That's where I learned about Saint-Just's execution
My friend-
If only we were living in a different time-

Rose
Big news!
The Reign of Terror has ended
I heard that Robespierre and more than a hundred of his suppor ters have been executed
You're saying others had been executed in the meantime?
Come to think of it, they haven't been taking anyone away to execute them recently
The death of this man was excru- ciat- ingly painful
We could have under- stood each other

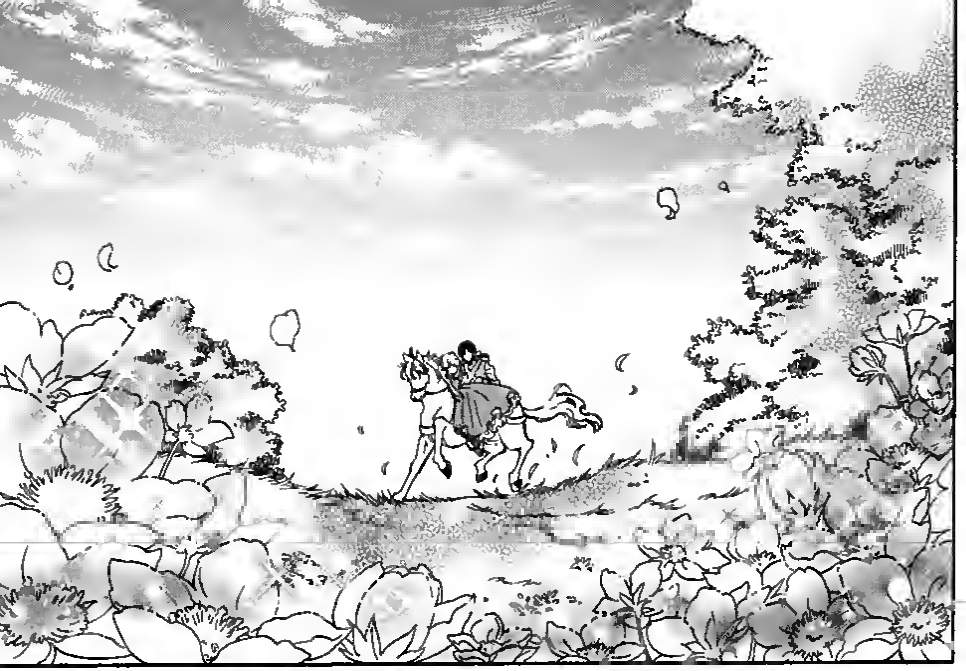
There-
sia
I'm going to punch you if
Rose!
The poor people ..
Oh, you!
But being execut-ed? It's so sad, so cruel
R... right
The ones who forced us to prepare to die!
They're the ones who executed Alexandre!
Why should you cry over them?
And that's why I love you
You're such a hopeless softie!

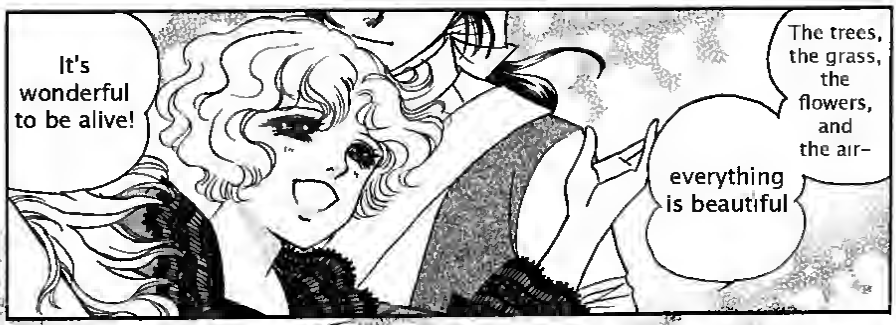
The prisoners began being released
...Saved ...
rustle
rustle
rustle
Darling!
I'll soon see Mademoiselle again!
And–
click
Who's that lady?
rustle
Amazing–she cut her hair in preparation for her death
rustle
How beauti-ful ..

Yes, Rose
Theresia, we're out! It isn't a dream!
Mademoiselle stood among the prisoners, radiant like the sun
Aga-the?
Welcome back, Mademoi-selle
sob

あ waa
あ wail
あ wail
あ
Agathe--
You were alive!
Agathe!
waa
Agathe!
あ waa
あ waa
Rose, I'm going home. There's someone here for me, too
あ wail
あ wail
waa
waa
Mademoi-selle...let's go home
So you're Agathe, the person Rose always spoke so fondly of, like a cherished lover
How do you do, I'm Theresia Carbarrus

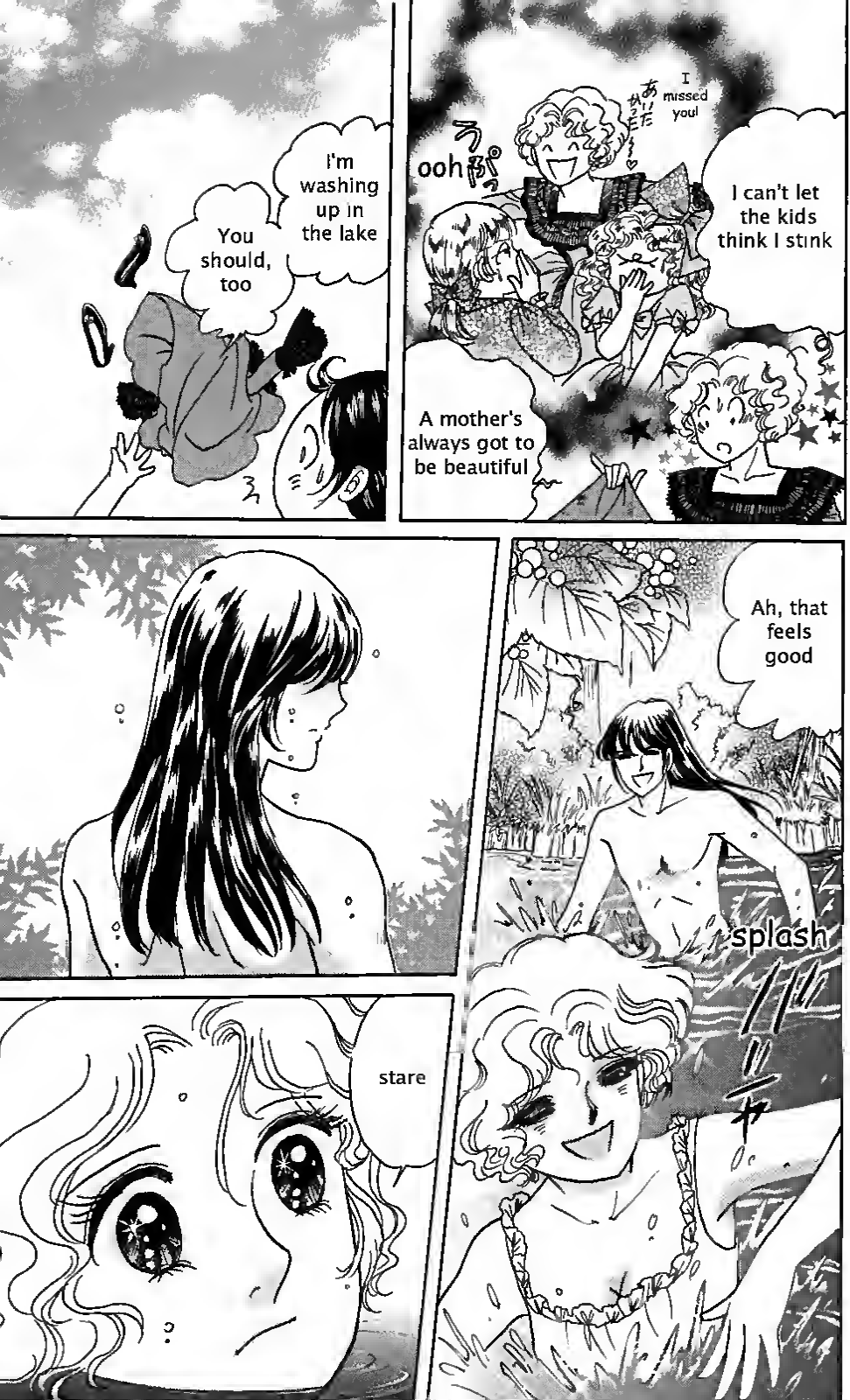
He's a fine young man, just like you said
You were always talking about Tallien so I ended up telling you about Agathe
No, no!
...lover?
Agathe?
A young man...
Of course
I couldn't arrange for a carriage... I hope a horse will be all right?
You too, Theresia
Let's get together again-come and visit anytime




It's wonderful to be alive!
The trees, the grass, the flowers, and the air–
everything is beautiful

The people who condemned you have been tried. You were right!
If only Alexandre, too, could enjoy this freedom–

I made a promise to Alexandre
that the two of us would watch over the children together
so I have to give them double the love that I have
sob
Yes, Mademoiselle
Can I cry once more before we go home?
sob
sob
sob
You can cry forever
and I will always be near you
Do you smell something?
Agathe...
I didn't realize back at Carmes
It's me!
sniff sniff
sniff sniff


I'm washing up in the lake
You should, too
I missed you!
ooh
I can't let the kids think I stink
A mother's always got to be beautiful
Ah, that feels good
splash
stare

stare
What are you staring at, Mademoiselle?
I was just thinking about what Theresia said
that you're a fine young man
It's true, your arms and shoulders have developed
and you've become much taller than I am
stare
stare
Please stop it, Mademoiselle
Let me see
Do you still have that birthmark on your bottom?
Oh
splash
splash

The place is in ruins...
Eugene... Hortense... Auntie... Father-in-law...
They've sold off all the furniture...
Let's go and talk to Theresia!
Don't worry
I will find everyone, Mademoiselle
I'll leave the children to you, Agathe
as to us,
The Beauharnais had been managing on Master Alexandre's income alone
but I hadn't known that things were so bad
Things must have been tough for Mme. Desirée

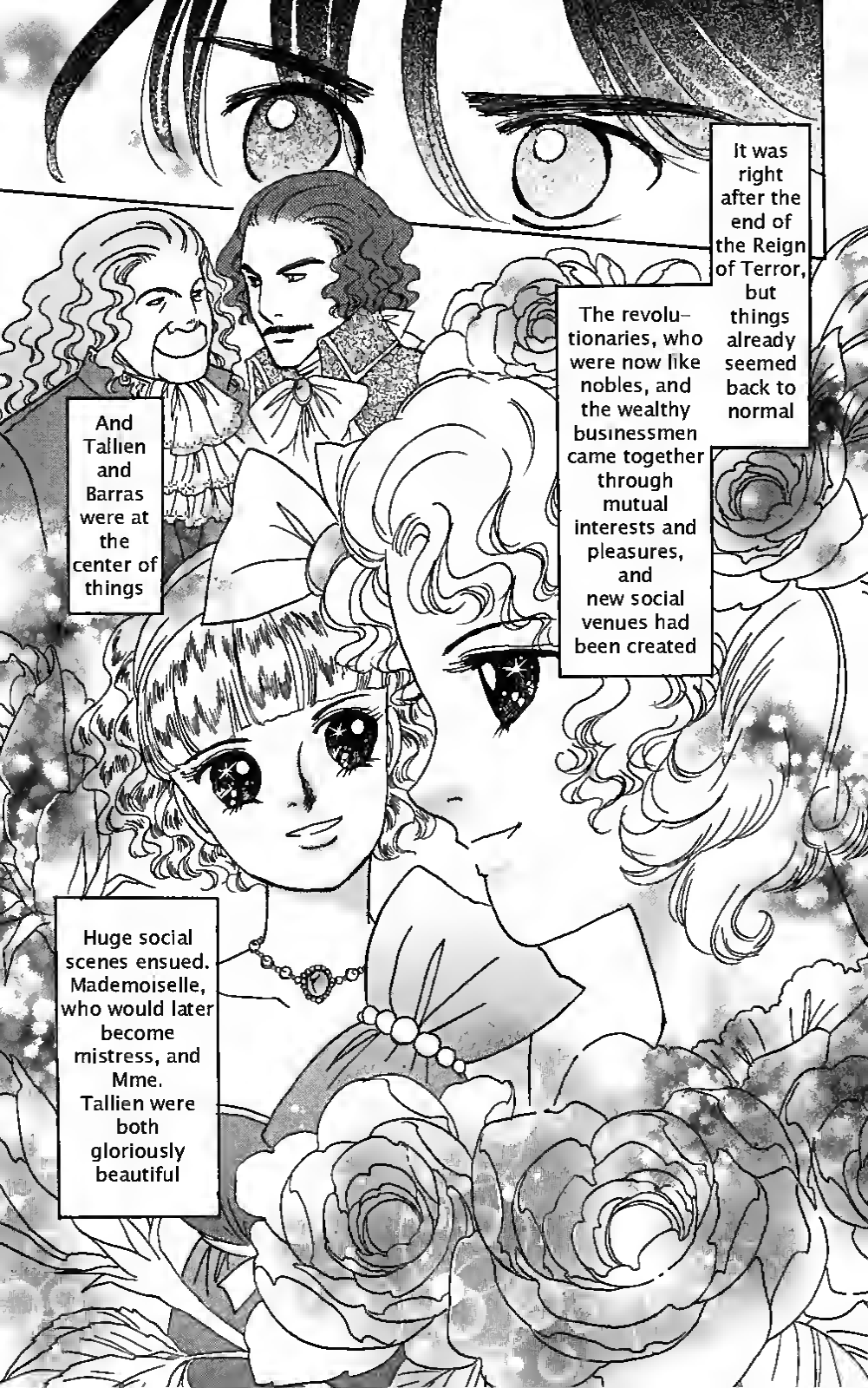
Jean-Lambert Tallien estate
Here's to the end of the Reign of Terror and the return of my love
Cheers!
Tallien launched fierce attacks against those leaders in the assembly
Love makes you strong
Cheers!
I am so happy, Jean-Lambert
I love you Theresia

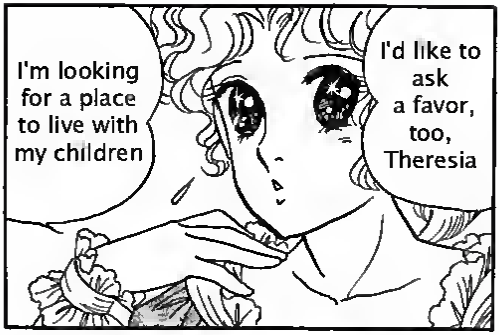
Theresia ...you look so happy and beautiful
A couple in love is indeed beautiful
Yes, ma'am
It's awkward to go barging in
Eliana's words are only in the past
You'll become a woman who's even greater than the queen
It was the first time that I'd felt so helpless
Mademoiselle..
Let's go, Agathe
It's just one person who will truly love you
It's up to you whether you'll be able to find that soul
I'm exhausted...I have no energy to even try to look for such a person

I can't protect Mademoi-selle like this
Ha ha ha
Ha ha ha
Staying close to Mademoi-selle, I'd always had food, a roof over my head, and a little money
I never imagined losing everything
click
Oh?
Didn't you get out of prison with Theresia?
Beau-harnais ..
I'm Marie-Josephe-Rose de Beauharnais

I'm not too crazy about this guy
You've come for the celebra-tions?
ho ho ho
I'm Paul Barras. General Barras. I'm a friend of Tallien's and one of the members that liberated the Carmes prison
Let's go, Agathe
I'd like to thank you on behalf of my fellow prisoners, sir
We came to see Theresia but we're much too underdressed and are leaving
Please allow me the honor of presenting you with a dress this evening
Madame, wait

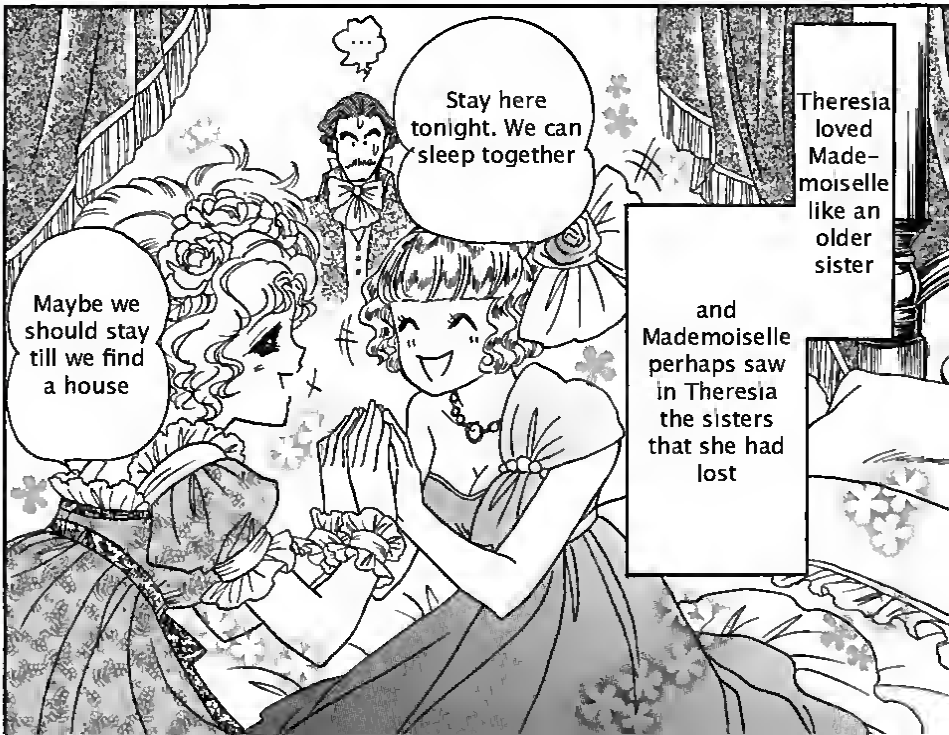
Who is that?
rustle
rustle
What a beauty
Rose!
Hello Barras. Thank you for bringing us such a beautiful flower
ho ho ho
General Barras escorted me
Even I was given this outfit
Mademoiselle and her power...
Come to me. I'll give you anything you want
Hello sweetie... wanna be my lover?


It was right after the end of the Reign of Terror, but things already seemed back to normal
The revolutionaries, who were now like nobles, and the wealthy businessmen came together through mutual interests and pleasures, and new social venues had been created
And Tallien and Barras were at the center of things
Huge social scenes ensued. Mademoiselle, who would later become mistress, and Mme. Tallien were both gloriously beautiful


I'm looking for a place to live with my children
I'd like to ask a favor, too, Theresia

Rose, Tallien and Barras are building a manor for social events next to our residence
I'd be delighted if you could help me run the salon at this "Thatched Roof house"

Certain-ly!
Won't you?
No problem, Tallien will get a house ready for you


Stay here tonight. We can sleep together
Maybe we should stay till we find a house
Theresia loved Made-moiselle like an older sister
and Mademoiselle perhaps saw in Theresia the sisters that she had lost

That house was found imme-diately
This will be Eugene's room, and this one's for Hortense
Your room is across the hall, Agathe
As I'll be busy with the salon, I'll take the one on the ground floor
Find them quickly, okay? They must be with Auntie and Father-in-law
...I have some ideas where to look
I'll be sure to find them within a few days

When I was gathering information to try to save Mademoiselle
I heard rumors that the nobles who'd lost everything in the revolution were living in this area
With Master Alexandre gone, the Beauharnais must now have no income
The revolution-aries are now the wealthy like the nobles used to be
Aga-the?

We will offer you and Marquis Beauharnais financial support
Mademoiselle has returned. I've come for Master Eugene and Mlle. Hortense
The children kept saying that you'd come looking for us...
Mme. Desirée!
We've really been troubled financially!
Oh...God had not forgotten us!
Mama!
Mama!

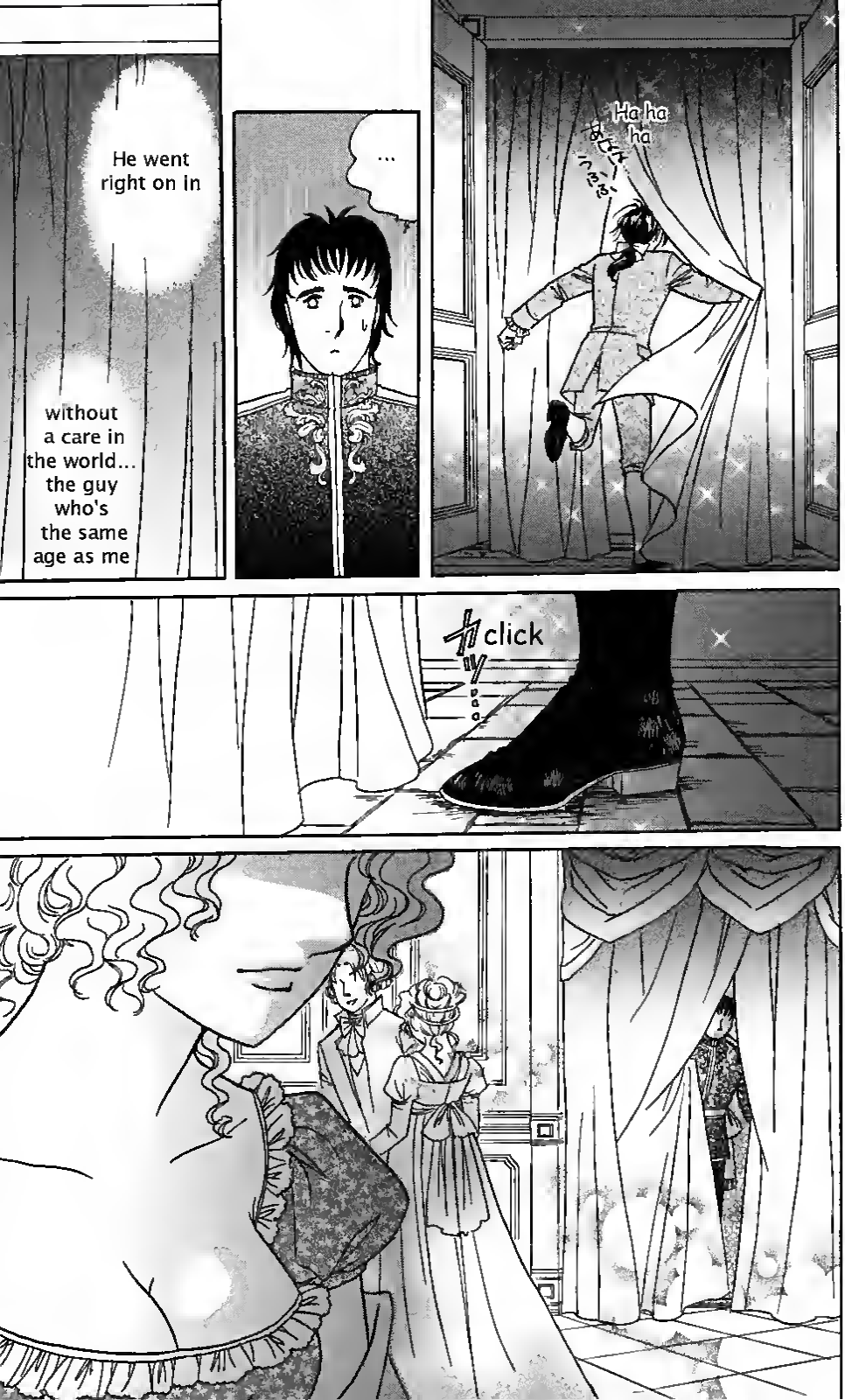
The thatched roof house was a big hit
With a modest exterior, the inside was adorned with luxurious, traditional decorations in the Greek style
Autumn 1795

Made-moi-selle was a good listener
Smiling sweetly, she would lend a ear to men with issues, older people with problems, even business discussions
The days were busy but glori-ous
A salon is not for me!
I need to make money somehow
I really feel useless
are you free tonight?
sweetie
But she could barely make ends meet, providing for Master Eugene and Mlle. Hortense
and sen-ding money to Mme. Desi-rée

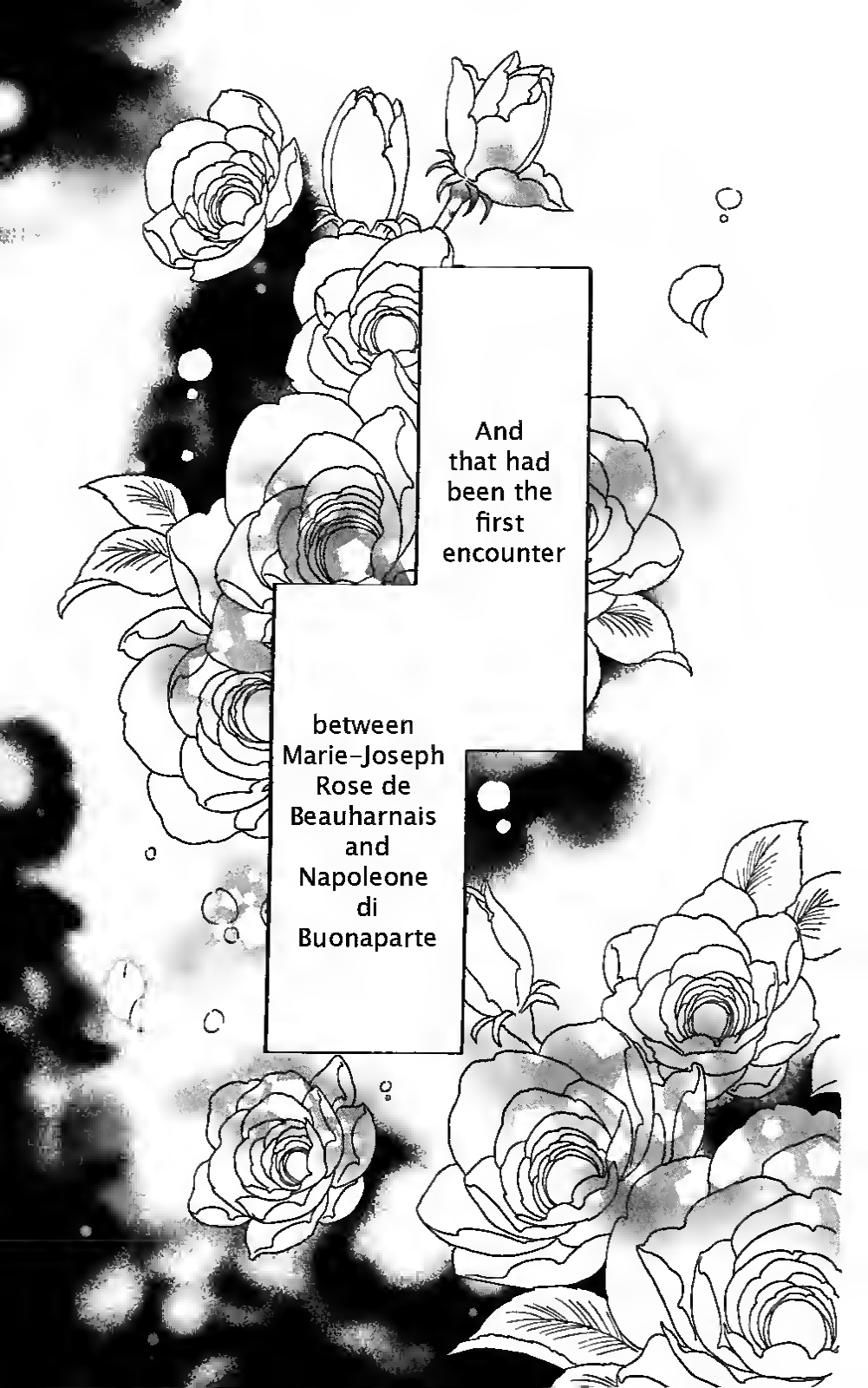
Hi again
Oh!
Me neither
ボソッ
whisper
I've been going back and forth out here, unable to go inside
Do you work here?
What?
There's something I wanted to ask you if we met again
...
Who are you here for? I'll go inside and bring them here
I don't actually work here...
You're a good guy!
Thank you!

Huh?
Why did you tell me to shoot at close range?
...I'm twenty-six
a weak-looking lad?
Any old guy would offer advice to a weak-looking lad with a small handgun
So am I
...
...

Ha ha ha
You only look around fifteen or sixteen yourself
Ha ha ha
You call yourself an old guy?
Ha ha ha
you sure don't look twenty-six
we're the same age?
Ha ha ha
I laughed so hard that my eyes were teary
It's been ages since I laughed so hard
Who do you want to see?
Mme. Tallien
I work for him
I have a message for her from Barras
Wait right here
Okay


He went right on in
without a care in the world... the guy who's the same age as me
...
Ha ha ha
click

smile
it's a goddess!
Oh my God...


And
that had
been the
first
encounter
between
Marie-Joseph
Rose de
Beauharnais
and
Napoleone
di
Buonaparte

thump
ドキ
thump
ドキ
Wha... what is this?
What kind of people are these folks who come and go to a place like this?

Mme. Tallien, there's a messenger for you from Mr. Barras
His name?
...his name ...
I'm sorry, I didn't ask
That's incautious
and unlike you, not even getting the name of a person who's come to see me

Oh, yes, Napoleone. Barras has told me about him
That's him
She's right, what's gotten into me?
Trusting someone just because we clicked
Napol-eone
you came to Theresia for money
His detachment has no money...how much should I lend him?
I've got to find work, too
or I'll be asking people for money tomor-row

Yes...
It's strange, huh? We seem to click but we don't even know each other's name
I got your name from Mme. Tallien
Hey, Agathe
Why the sudden change?
We were both saying this isn't our kind of place
giggle
Next time, show me how to get inside, okay?
I'm Napoleone di Buonaparte
I, uh...I'll tell you one of these days
heh heh

I had never imagined that it would be love at first sight
He wasn't her type, he had no name, no money, and it was a younger man's crush
I hadn't dreamed at the time where his longing for Mademoiselle would lead

I'm planning to borrow soon, so could you tell them...
After paying the children's tutors, I'll have no money to pay the servants
Agathe
Can you come here for a minute?
,...Yes, ma'am
Please be sure to pay us next month
How many times has it been?
What? We aren't being paid again?

I'll go and get something at the harbor
ah!
All right...but we don't even have ingredients to cook tomorrow
bow
I'm sorry, you'll be paid for sure
Please just be patient a while longer

I haven't been to port in some time
I'm glad I tagged along
Okay
No running around on your own, Mlle. Hortense
...Where's Mlle. Hortense gone?
huh
These scenes remind me of Martinique
Good, the prices are lower than I thought
ON

Mlle ....
Mlle. Hortense
Mlle. Horten- se
Just like her mother, she never stays still
Mlle. Hortense!

Mlle. Hortense!
Agathe
Let go of Mademoiselle!
Who are you?
and a friend of me and Mama's
This is Mr. Charles Chestille. He's a trade merchant
Who is this, acting so familiar?
Your man is quite valiant, mademoiselle

Please excuse me, sir!
It's good to know that a young man like you
sniff
is protecting madame and mademoi-selle
Mr. Charles?
I left you and your mother at that port and went on home and were relieved to find my wife and daughter well...then I started getting so worried about you two
help
less
Seeing Mlle. Hortense today, looking good,
Thank you
Thank you for thinking about Madame and Mlle. Hortense
what a nice man
I'm so happy I can't control my tears
squeeze

La Charles
I've opened a restaurant and an import shop nearby
and would love to treat you if you have a little time
I'll give you anything you like as a present, Mlle.
Turkish rugs, cotton from India, furs, jewelry, and rum from Guadalupe
Venetian glass ornaments and silk from China
wow
oh
wow

This...
Is this tea?
I'm fine, thank you
Is there anything that you would like, Agathe?
It's prohibited, isn't it
It just arrived at port today
You're very sharp
These are goods that have come in illegally from British ships
That's right. Because of the war with England we no longer get quality tea from British India
Will you report to the authorities?
...
You get the tea but you can't sell it publically

Please allow me to help
I'll find customers for your tea
phew
A friend of Madame and Mlle. Hortense is an important person to me, too
Of course not!
There's too much to choose from
Mr. Charles
Mm, this is excellent
We're tasting tea, indispensable for the lives of nobles
What are you two drinking?

Mme. Theresia's salon was the first place I sold it to
The wealthy who frequent the salon enjoyed the taste and were eager to buy
We got these at a friend's export shop
Oh, Rose, Theresia, those hair ornaments are lovely
I must get something for my daughter, too
Le Chables
oh, nice
That's the shop

I'm just glad to be able to see you again, Charles
You and Mme. Tallien are creating Paris trends
Business is excellent thanks to you, madame
Agathe?
It would be nice if Mama married someone like Mr. Charles
Charles didn't tell Mademoiselle that I was selling his tea
I'd been handling the household finances and was now able to make ends meet
I was finally useful
If Mademoi-selle married again...

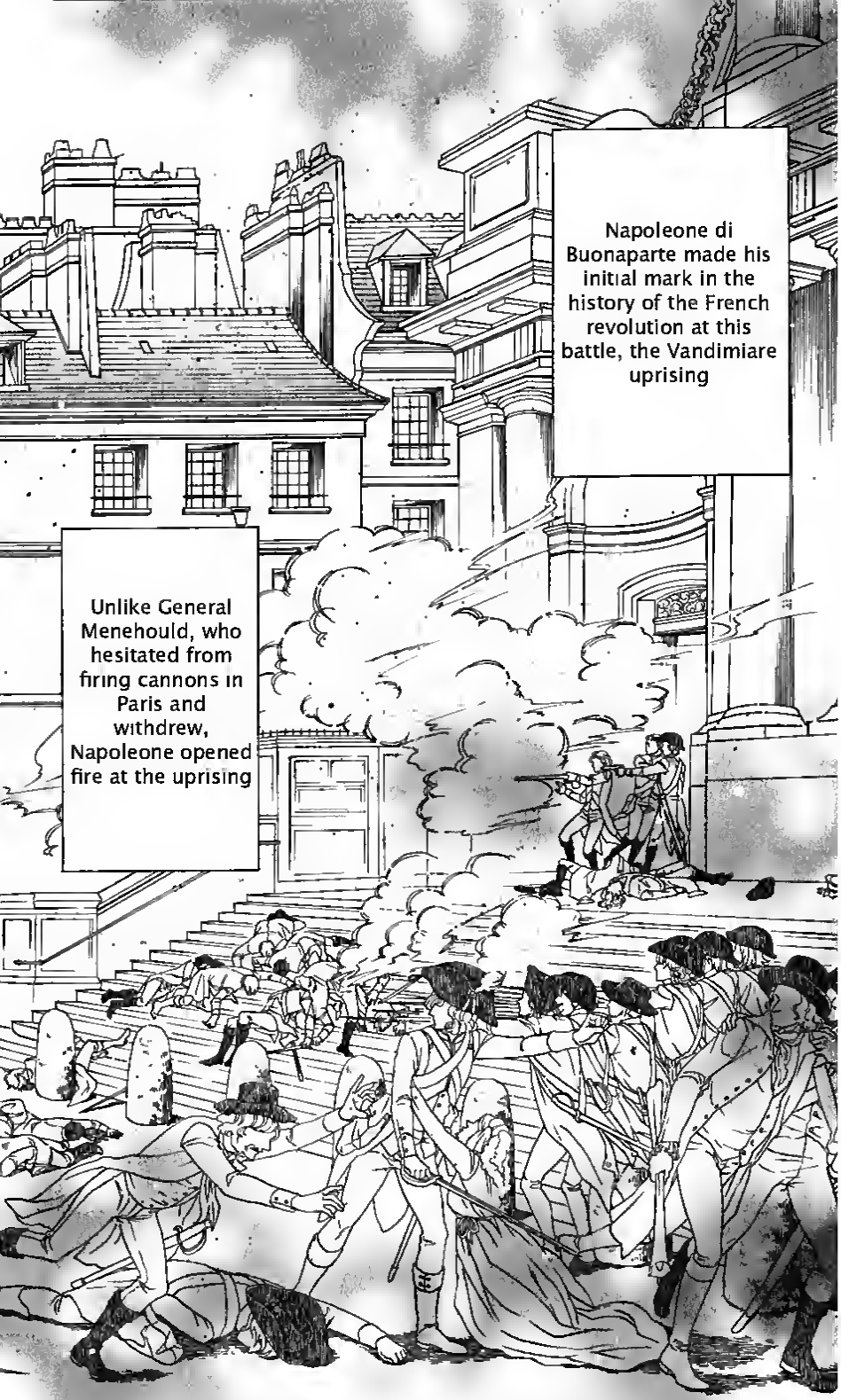
Never part with her
Agathe .. Mademoiselle is the sun and you are the moon
You'll become greater than the queen
You'll reach incredible heights during your life
If Mademoiselle remarries some day,
it will probably be to someone who will surprise us both completely
...I guess we wouldn't be surprised if it was someone like Mr. Charles
okay, that's convincing

I've been waiting for you, Rose
So much of it as if someone's moving in
There's luggage sitting in front of our house
What is it?
ah-hem
Auntie Desirée. Father-in-law
They're forming a royalist faction and getting together talking about starting another revolution
Our area is home to many aristocrats who've lost everything in the revolution, and combined with the poor, there's a mood that things were better when we had our king ..

Agathe, is there going to be another revolution?
And we ran away and came here
I couldn't take another revolution... I'd like to live quietly
Don't worry
Mr. Tallien and Mr. Barras are both key people in government
They'll be sure to protect you all
October 1795
Calling for a return to feudalism, the royals formed rebel forces and took large-scale military action in Paris

What? General Menehould withdrew without fighting the rebels?
Barras, you should lead as commander-in-chief!
We only have five thou-sand
The rebels are commanded by the military and exiled nobles, and there are twenty to twenty-five thousand of them
We're at a disad-vantage!
Thirty out of the forty-eight sections in Paris are participating as the rebels
Whatever our disadvantage, we'll be finished if our National Convention forces don't win!
Oh, Theresia..
...I am a competent politician but not a competent military man
...a com-petent military man...
Him, standing back there
We'll make him our adjutant

The royalists were put down by his recklessness in the course of a single day
Unlike General Menehould, who hesitated from firing cannons in Paris and withdrew, Napoleone opened fire at the uprising
Napoleone di Buonaparte made his initial mark in the history of the French revolution at this battle, the Vandimiare uprising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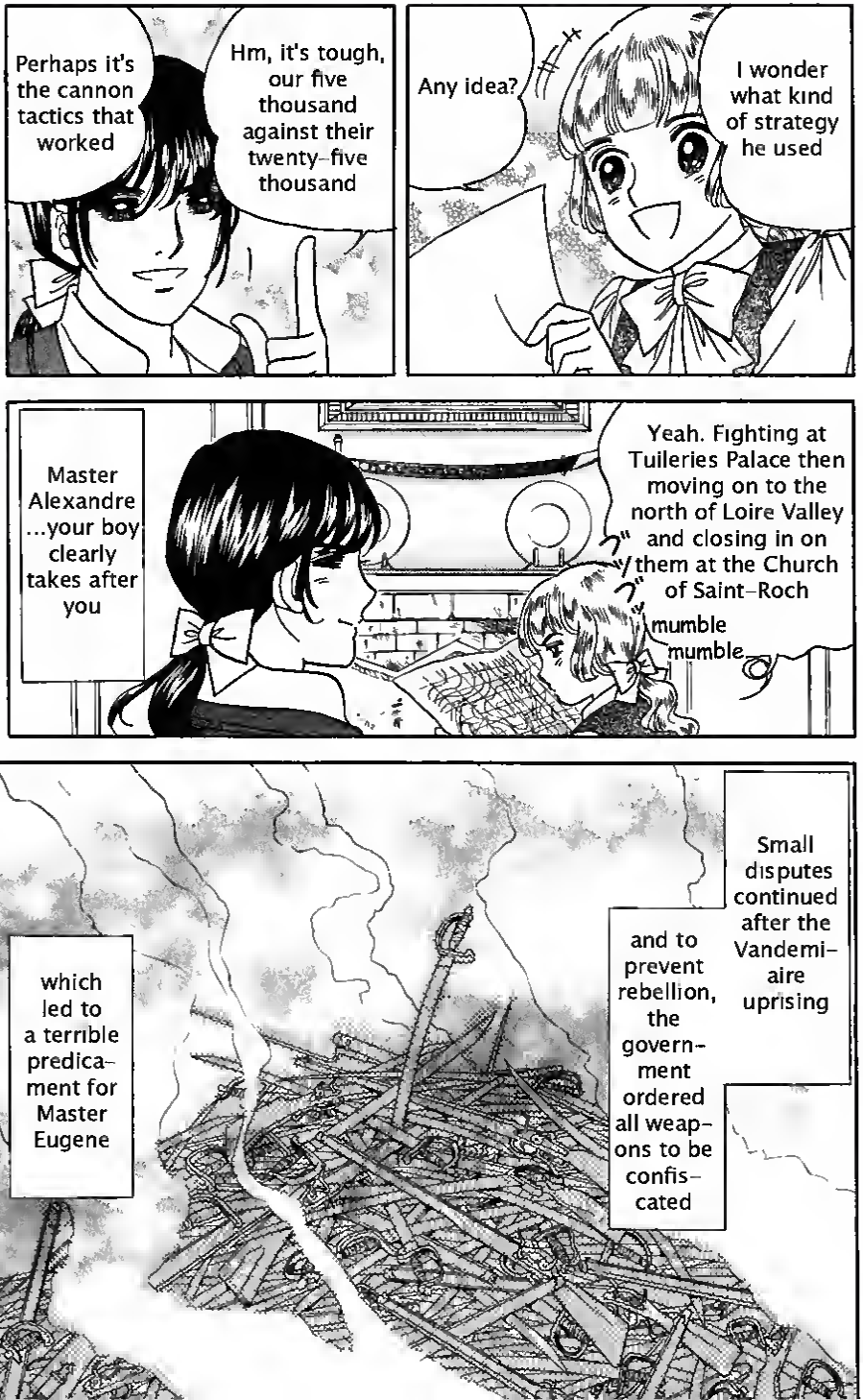
The royalists were put down by his recklessness in the course of a single day

Napoleone di Buonaparte began to be called General Vandemiaire, another name for October, and replaced Barras as commander-in-chief
Hey, Agathe, that General Vandemiaire is really amazing


Perhaps it's the cannon tactics that worked
Hm, it's tough, our five thousand against their twenty-five thousand
Any idea?
I wonder what kind of strategy he used
Master Alexandre ...your boy clearly takes after you
Yeah. Fighting at Tuileries Palace then moving on to the north of Loire Valley and closing in on them at the Church of Saint-Roch
mumble mumble
Small disputes continued after the Vandemiaire uprising
and to prevent rebellion, the government ordered all weapons to be confiscated
which led to a terrible predicament for Master Eugene

We're home! We bought yummy cookies
Let's enjoy them, children
Mama
Soldiers came and took Papa's sword
and Eugene went after them and hasn't come back

We should have hidden it
They found it right away because it was sitting on the fireplace mantel
Please, Agathe
I'll find Master Eugene and get the sword back
Please be safe, Master Eugene!
I'll start by asking Tallien or Barras
Where to go?

wack
I said get lost!
Give it up! We're confiscating all weapons!
It's a keep-sake from my father!
Please give it back!

You little–
Please give it back!
Be good and go home!
Do you want another punch?
Stop it!
General Vande-miaire
It's unsight-ly
What are you fussing over in front of our building?

I respect you very much
General ...
And you are?
My father loved France but died a regrettable death at the guillotine... and left me his sword
I'm Eugene, son of former general Alexandre de Beauharnais of the republican armies

Please, sir, my father's sword...
...That's why you came all the way out here
And that sword's been taken...
Now give it back to him
How do you think this boy feels? It's obvious the sword's as important to him as his life
You can have it back
All right, stop crying
Idiot
General, Mr. Barras said no exceptions

Master Eugene
Agathe
You haven't been hurt
Good
Vandemiaire...
He wrapped his jacket around the sword
and said it's in respect to Father
General Vandemiaire gave me back the sword

Agathe ...
I'd like to go and thank him tomorrow
What a nice man
General Vande-miaire
I'll accompany you, Mademoi-selle
I'd like to see him, too
...or rather, Napoleone di Buonaparte-I wonder how he looks in his general's seat?

kay
General, Mme. Beauharnais is here
creak
Thank you so much for your generosity to my son
How do you do, I am Marie-Josephe Rose de Beauharnais
It's-
thump
It's the goddess

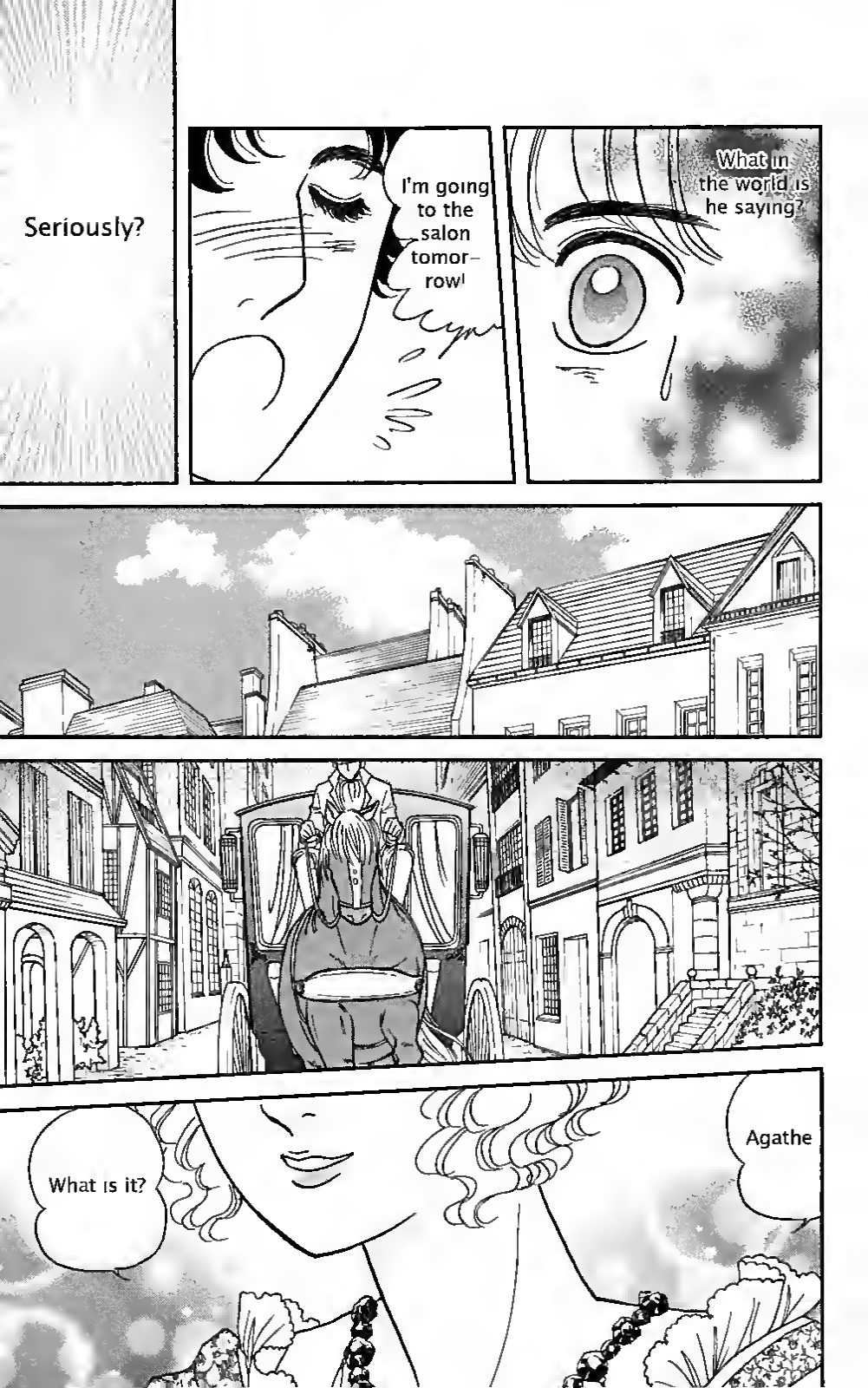
I work for Mme. Beauharnais
Why are you here?
Agathe..
His chair's so unsuitable he falls off of it?
laugh
You're telling me you're with her every day?
Y...you're kidding!
General Vandemiaire
smile
Agathe has been near me since he was born,
Oh, what a sweet voice!

I was touched when he talked about his father's sword
and I really feel for him
I, uh, I also lost my father when I was your son's age
Yes, well, tough doesn't begin to describe it
things must have been very tough for you
You also lost your father when you were so young?
Y...yes ma'am!
Please come to Mme. Tallien's salon, I'm there every day and would love to hear more

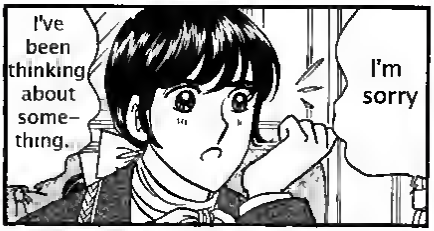
But he's young, not tall
I wondered what kind of person this general would be
Shall we be on our way, Agathe?
He's acting funny today
See you
Now where did he meet Agathe?
and has such a strong Italian accent
Please wait in the carriage, Mademoiselle
Wait a minute, Agathe

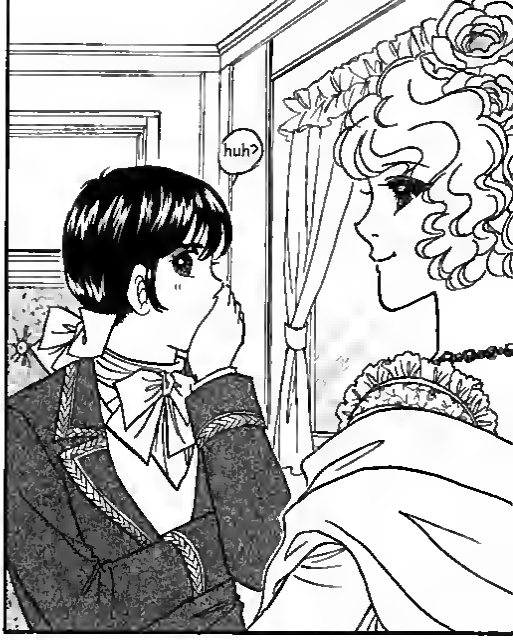
Huh?
I want her
You're acting strange today
What is it?

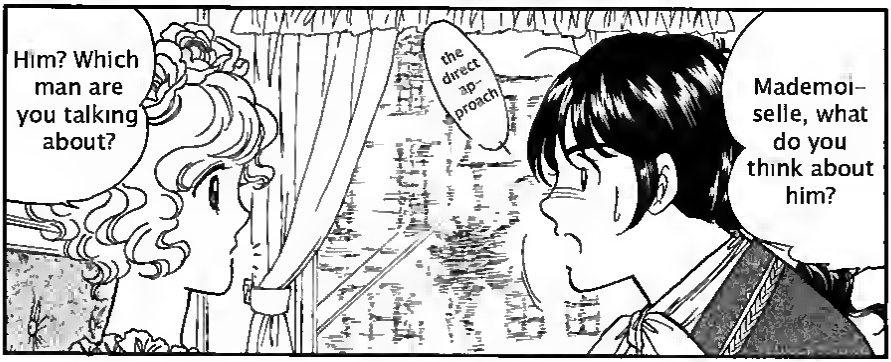
I want her! Please, help me out
Marie-Joseph Rose de Beauharnais


Seriously?
I'm going to the salon tomorrow!
What in the world is he saying?
Agathe
What is it?

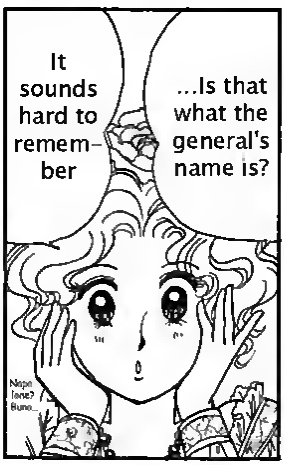
staring outside
You've been quiet since our ride began


I've been thinking about some-thing.
I'm sorry


huh?


Him? Which man are you talking about?
the direct ap-proach
Mademoi-selle, what do you think about him?

What do you think?
Not much of an impres-sion...


It sounds hard to remem-ber
...Is that what the general's name is?
Napo-leone? Buno-

Napoleone di Buonaparte, the man we just saw

The general looks older
or maybe you just look young
...
laugh
He and I are the same age
You're the same age?
That's a double surprise
What.. well, let's see
As a general, I thought he'd be older
I was surprised that he was so young
I want her! Please, help me out
... Impos-sible.

He came to see Mademoi-selle the next day
Don't let your eyes wander, walk straight behind me
straight
Okay
You're a guest, so act confident
Straighten your back
Mm

This is Paris society? It's so magnificent I can't help blinking
wonder
wonder

Mademoiselle, General Napoleone di Buonaparte has arrived as a return gesture
Where is he?
here
Her beauty is ethereal
She's even more gorgeous today than she was yesterday
stiff カチン
Why aren't you standing behind me?
stiff コチン
I couldn't move my feet when I caught a glimpse of her

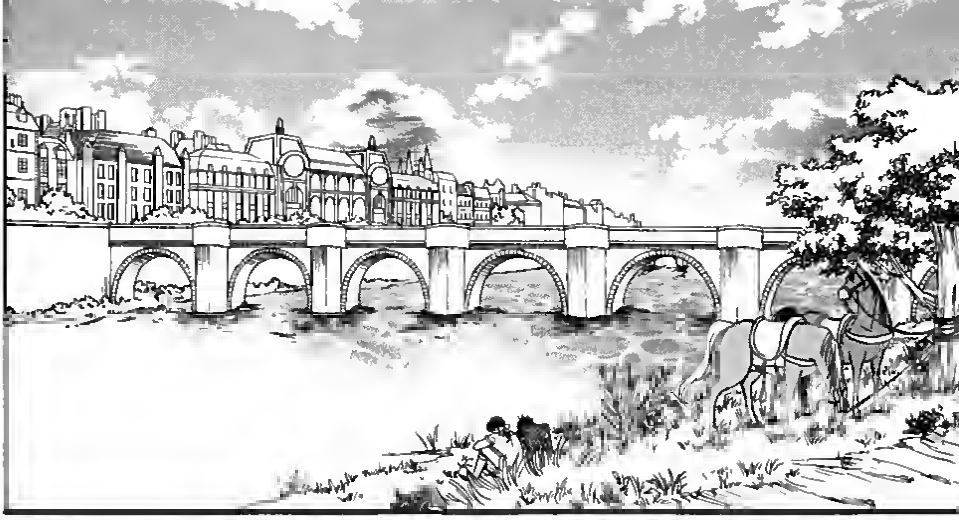
Please have a seat General Napoloeone di Buonaparte
I'm glad you have come
にっこり smile
For you I'd walk through fire and water
What would you like to drink?
I'd take poison if it's your recommen-dation
A bit awkward... but he's managing a conver-sation
Agathe, could you bring us tea?
Yes, ma'am
hey, you're leaving me?
go for it!

Agathe
Yes, sir
Some tea for Mademoiselle, please
Oh, yes, ma'am
I see that General Napoleone is here
The tea that you order is really tasty
Get us more tea, okay?
Uh, yes...
she's sharp
He must really want to see Rose
He doesn't look the type that would fancy a salon

When to go back
Now ...
Even Mme. Tallien is unaware that I sell it directly
Tea sure is popular
Mademoi-selle... where's the general?
Your jokes are so funny, viscount
oh ho ho
He didn't even drink his tea
General Napolone left when Viscount Vouvre came by to say hello
it's hopeless!
She doesn't even remember his exact name-

He came back again the next day
Good luck
Yesterday I was so nervous I could barely speak
but I'm fine today
Aren't you coming?
...You want me sitting in the middle?
No, alone with her would be fine
I'm glad you're back with us again
Aren't you busy, though?
Uh
Ha ha ha, yes, pretty much

splat
Ow!
Drink your tea before it gets cold
First we need to bring back order, and–
there are a million things I have to do
so very busy
The state of Paris is still far from stable
Uh, um...
I'll just go and get changed
clatter
smile
...
...
Excuse me
and I'll come back again tomorrow!
I...I'll excuse myself today



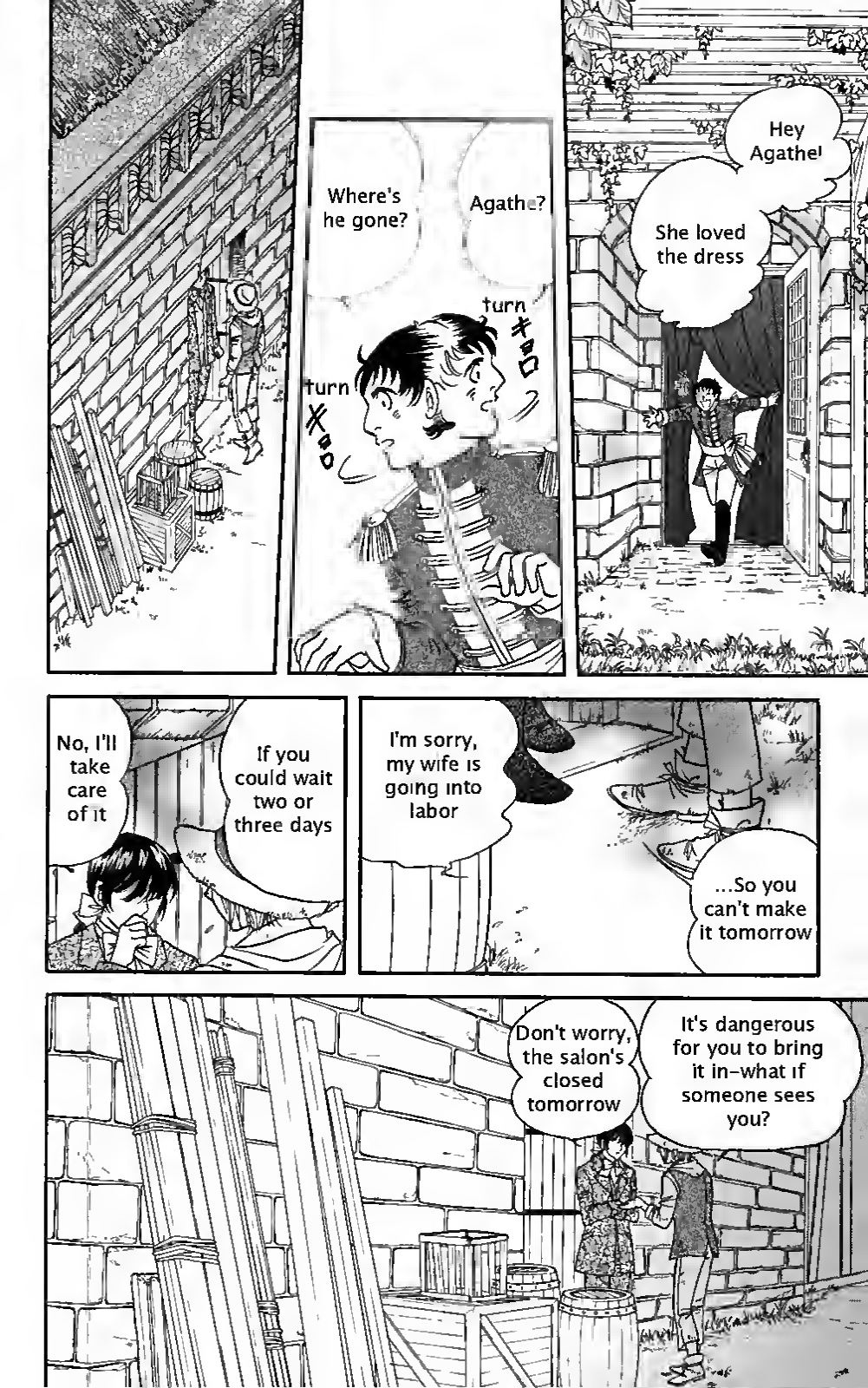
Sure
Help me, Agathe
I've never bought a dress for a woman

Her sleeping face?
Have you ever seen her asleep?
...I dream about her every night

No!
Don't open the drapes yet! I'm still sleepy
I sometimes go and wake her up
wake her up?
I'm getting jealous!
Say no more!
You're the one who asked
You were eavesdropping!
Of course not! I was just passing by
Anyway, I'll give you the dress tomorrow
And you shouldn't talk to her about politics or the military

Oh my...
What a beautiful dress...and a lovely hat
It's my apology for yesterday
Thank you, General Napoleone di Buonaparte
smile

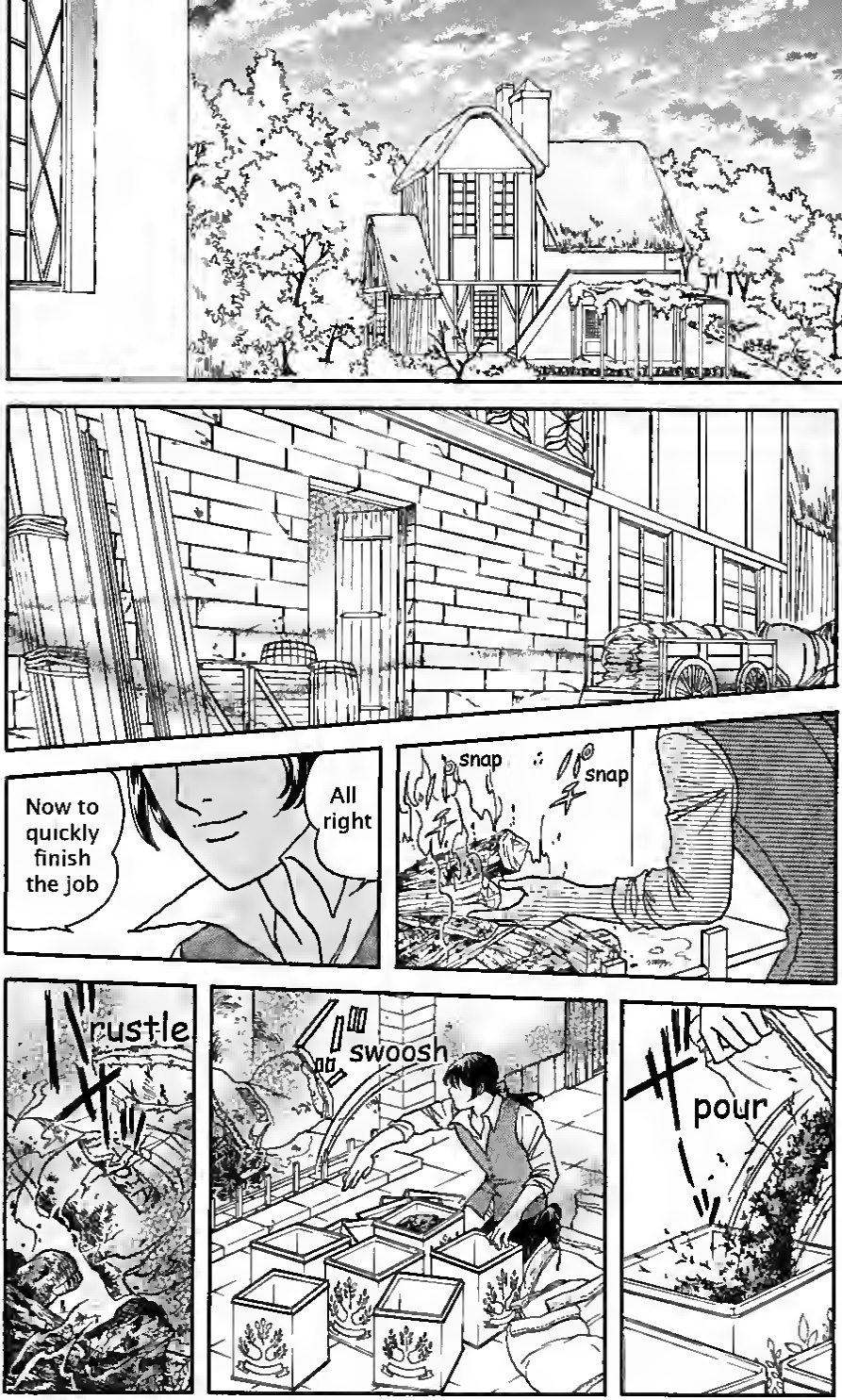
I'm glad you like it
I'll be by again tomorrow
I dream about you every night
...your smile...
hut
The salon's closed tomorrow
I'll be here the day after tomorrow
squeeze


Where's he gone?
Agathe?
turn
turn
Hey Agathe!
She loved the dress
No, I'll take care of it
If you could wait two or three days
I'm sorry, my wife is going into labor
...So you can't make it tomorrow
Don't worry, the salon's closed tomorrow
It's dangerous for you to bring it in-what if someone sees you?

Go!
Yes sir!
rattle
ガタッ
Take this-for the delivery
You are always so kind
Thank you, sir
Oh, and where's Napol-eone
Was it my imagi-nation?
silence

He has good taste choosing a dress, I wonder why he looks so unpolished
good
He gave me a fabulous dress and hat
He left a while ago, saying he'd be back the day after tomorrow
...and why am I defending him?
He's probably on his way to gradually become more refined
La · Charles

You were picking out something for Mme. Beauharnais yesterday
Choosing for yourself today, Agathe?
We need shoes, too
As for the shirt...
We're about the same size
Thanks to you, business is great
Of course not! You're an important partner of mine
the dress yesterday
Please don't mention it to her, Mr. Charles
rattle
rattle
rattle
rattle


All right
Now to quickly finish the job
snap
snap
rustle
swoosh
pour

Halfway finished
rustle
rustle
vsssshh

Napol-
eone...
Agathe
...
You've
been doing
something
risky like
this?
Tea from
England-
it's
smuggling
vsssshh
Our French forces are
fighting the English
right now
It'll be the
death penalty
if you're
caught!
...How
did you
find
out?
I saw you having
a suspicious
conversation
here yesterday
..So that
was you

Did Tallien and Barras tell you to do this?
Tell me why you're doing this!
It's just me alone, it has nothing to do with the salon
No!
I can't tell him, even if he kills me. It would hurt Mademoiselle's reputation
She'd be a laughing stock if people found out that her servant was doing this to support her
I want to know the truth!
Tell me!

You look like you'd rather die than tell me about it
humph
So I'll give you a chance
I'm the only person who knows about this
Fight me. Kill me
Then no one will find out about this
And if you die,
As a military man I would have eliminated a criminal
..Guns?
You'd be at a disadvantage
Even if it isn't at close range, I hit the bulls-eye every time
I have an extra sword

grab
Have you ever used one before?
...I watched Viscount Beauharnais practice
Beauharnais is your example? That's good enough!

clash
Tell me your reason
I can just manage to evade his strikes!
He's mili-tary, all right
Talk!
Depending on your reason I won't take your life
A whip-ping
A hot iron
clank
Expul-sion will suffice!

If I can't stay by Mademoi-selle,
Expul-sion? You've got to be kidding!
Take that!
whoosh
I'd rather die!
whoosh
Wow
clank

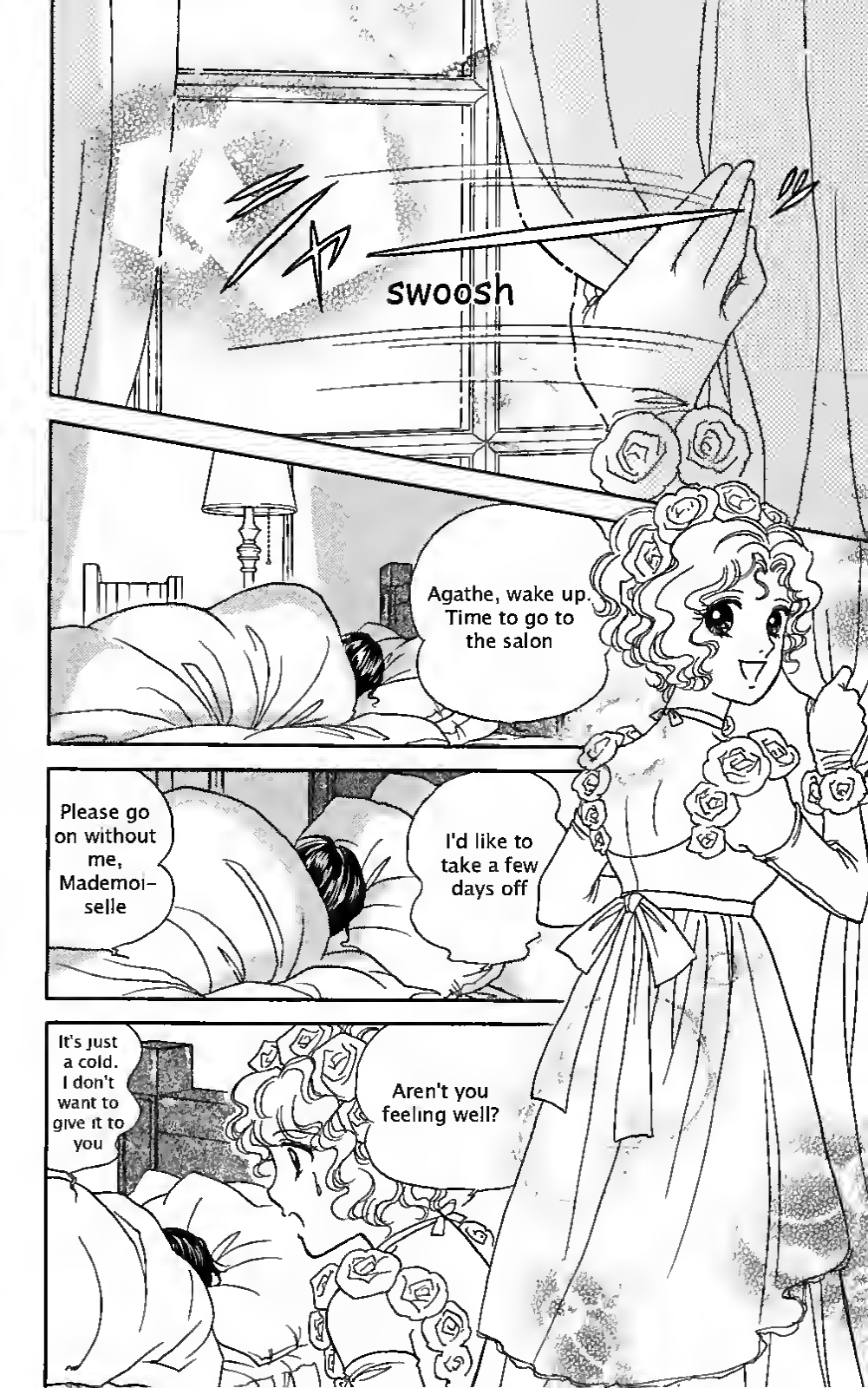
thud
A...
drop
Agathe!
pant
pant

You were so serious
I got carried away
What are you talking about?
I'm sorry! I didn't mean to hurt you
I had to make sure
of what?
I'm really sorry
tug
We'll stop the bleeding. Don't move
wondering if you were doing something that might hurt my goddess
I overheard your suspicious conversation
and thought about it all night

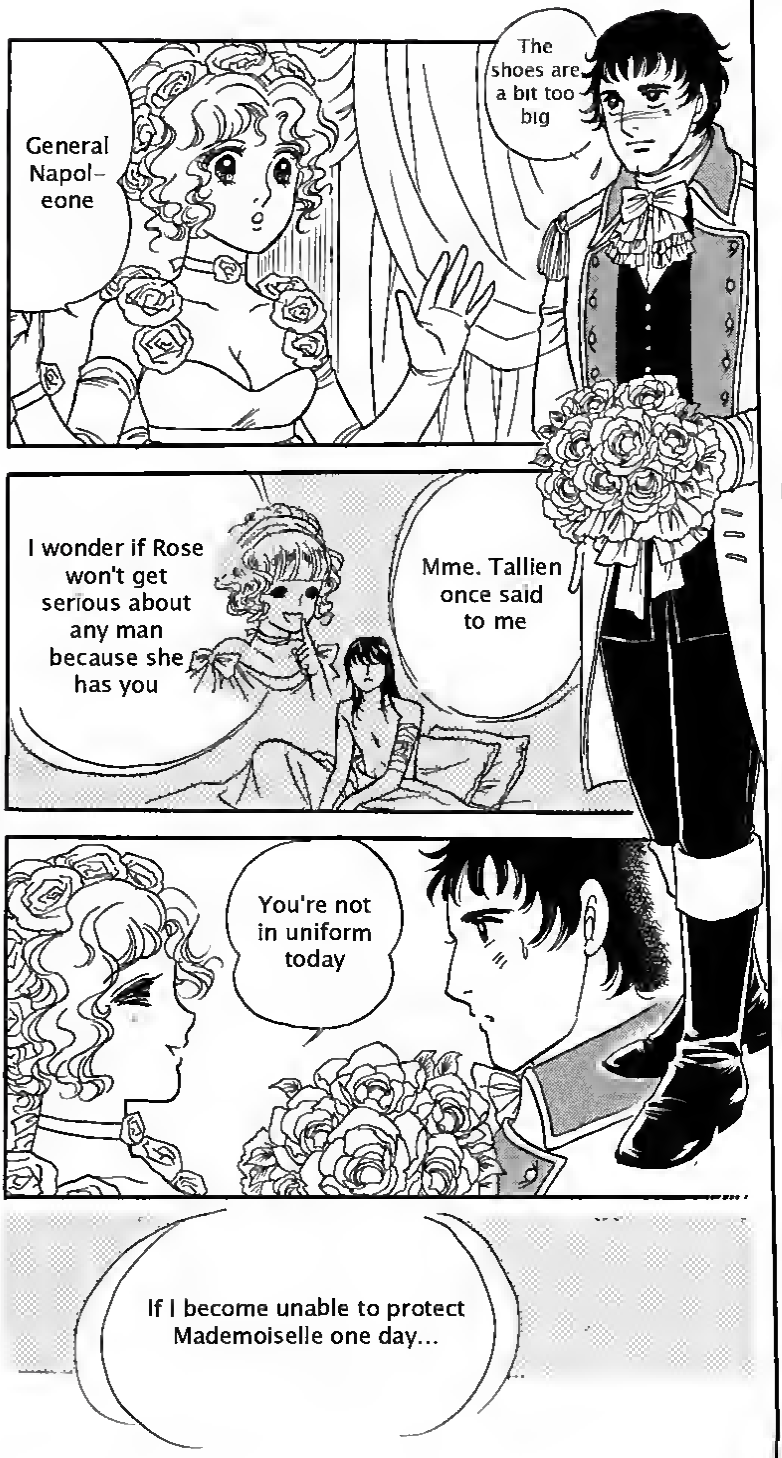
I got a pretty good idea seeing the product today
I wanted to know what you were doing and how tight-lipped you were
It's true that this would hurt her...
...
All right. I, too, will protect your precious woman
You so want to protect her you'd go up against a military professional
put your life on the line
sob
...

flap
clap clap
Okay, that's it
You didn't have to help clean things up
Thanks
Nah, it's my apology for hurting you
It's an outfit I chose to go with your goddess's dress
You can wear it tomorrow
my outfit?
That's yours. I was going to give it to you tomor-row
Oh
This box was sitting in the carriage. Does this also need to be burned?

You aren't making any sense
ha ha ha
I'm a military man. I fight at war, fight for love, and fight for friendship
Hah! You fought me, didn't you?
I'm so grateful for your friendship!
Why don't you take her out to the suburbs now and then?
Never mind. Just take care of Mademoiselle
take it easy for a while
I'll stay away from the salon for a few days
sorry
Should I send a doctor?


swoosh
Agathe, wake up. Time to go to the salon
I'd like to take a few days off
Please go on without me, Mademoi-selle
Aren't you feeling well?
It's just a cold. I don't want to give it to you

I'm wearing the dress that General Napoleone gave me
Here, look
..It looks very nice on you
You'll catch my cold!
Come on, take a good look!
Oh, you!
Rest well
Okay, I'm going then
rustle
...
click
The first dress that I chose for Mademoi-selle-
that I paid for with my earnings-it looked great on her


General Napol-eone
The shoes are a bit too big
I wonder if Rose won't get serious about any man because she has you
Mme. Tallien once said to me
You're not in uniform today
If I become unable to protect Mademoiselle one day...

Now it's up to Napoleone

I sense it
Then Napoleone di Buonaparte–he'll probably be the only one who can
Marie–Joseph Rose de Beauharnais
I can't imagine anything more beautiful than you...these feelings are forever
Thank you, what a beautiful bouquet
Nuh... nothing
What's the matter?
You're even making me blush
Napo–leone...

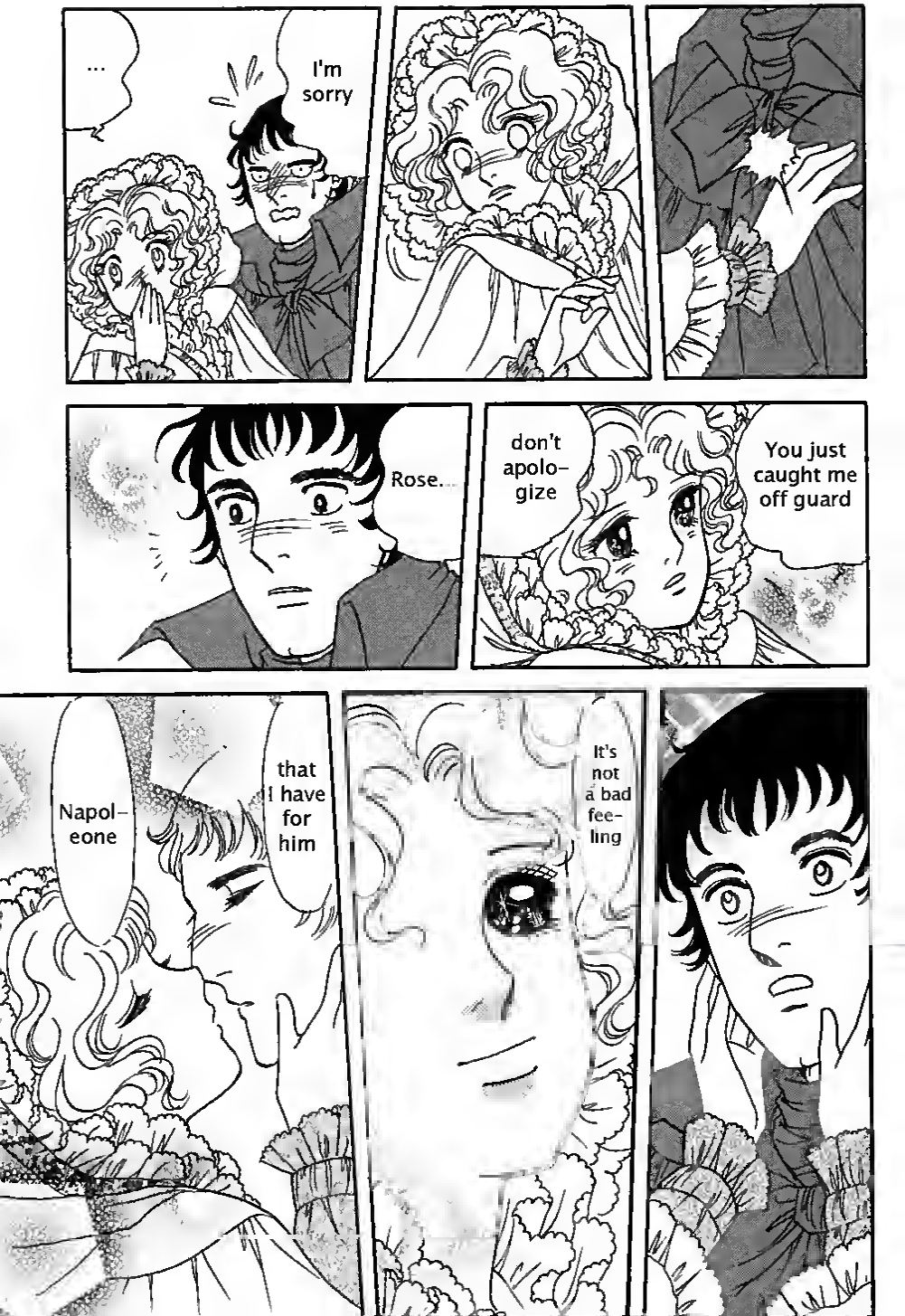
Thinking about Napoleone?
What's up? You look dazed
Wha .. what
Rose
Rose
You were blushing like a young girl
I saw you receiving flowers
He's so straightforward unlike the others
I lose my balance when I'm with him
Mm, he is different from the other men
I blush when he tells me he dreams about me each night
My heart beats faster when he says his feelings are forever
I'm awkward

He invited me on an outing tomorrow–
just the two of us. What should I do?
He looked particularly fine today
maybe that's why
...Shy?
well...
Go on
You said okay, didn't you?
Don't be shy, you're the mother of two kids

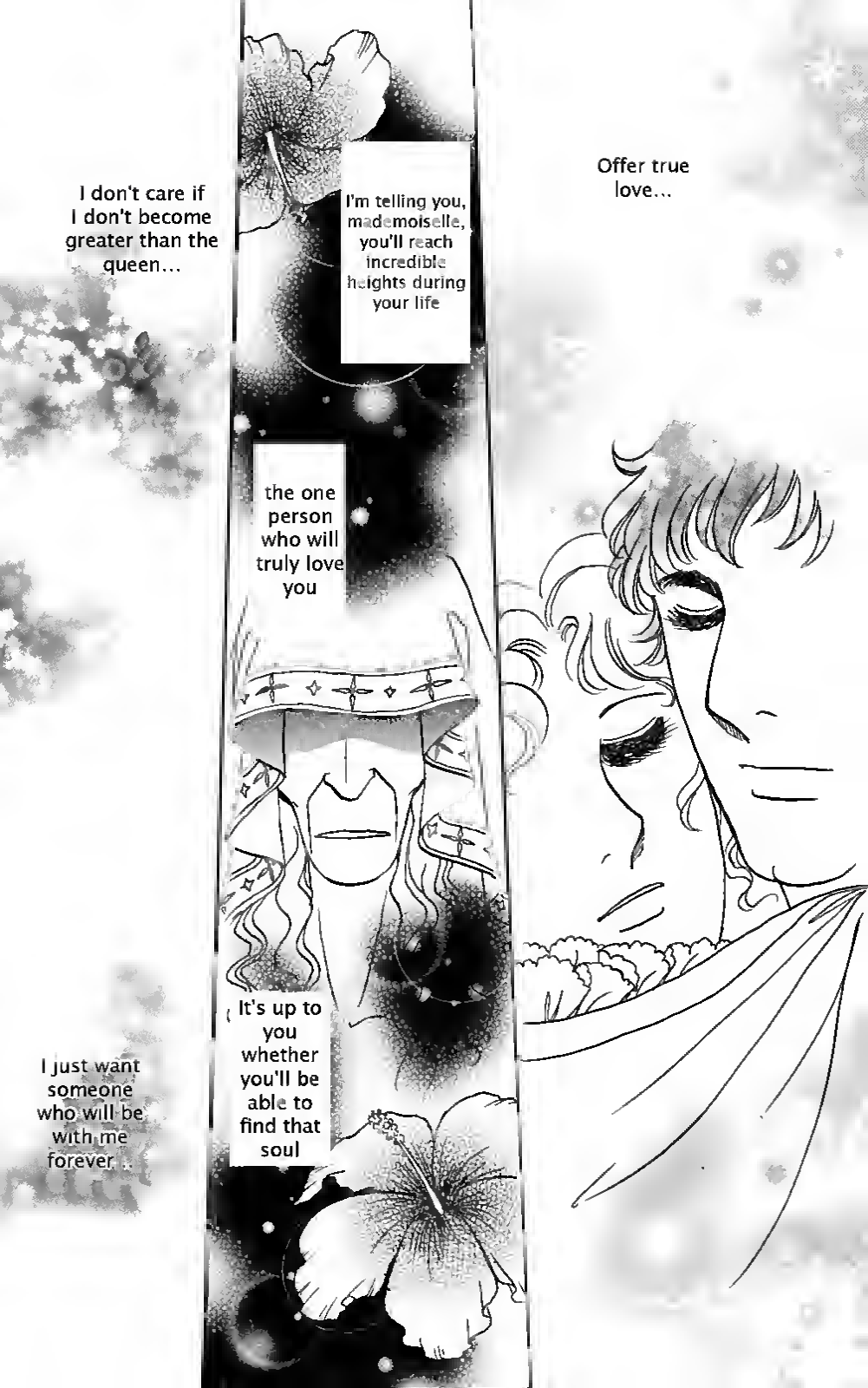
No
The weather isn't too good
But it feels great. I haven't been out in a while
The island of Corsica, a hundred and sixty km away from from the southern coast of France
Where were you born?
Napol-eone?
her hair softly touching my cheeks
She's so close to me

How romantic
There's a mountain range across the island and mountains that are snow-capped year-round
thump thump
thump thump
Corsica... what's it like?
Martinique, where I was born, is summer all year-round. I'd never seen snow until I came to Paris
Romantic?
I sometimes long to see Martinique again
Which do you prefer, Corsica or Paris?
I came to France to study with my brother when I was nine and have been going back and forth since
I never thought it was romantic when I was in Corsica
grip
...I...

Rose..
I...you...
anywhere is fine, as long as you're there
The place that I like the best is with you
clomp


...
I'm sorry
Rose...
don't apolo-gize
You just caught me off guard
Napol-eone
that I have for him
It's not a bad fee-ling

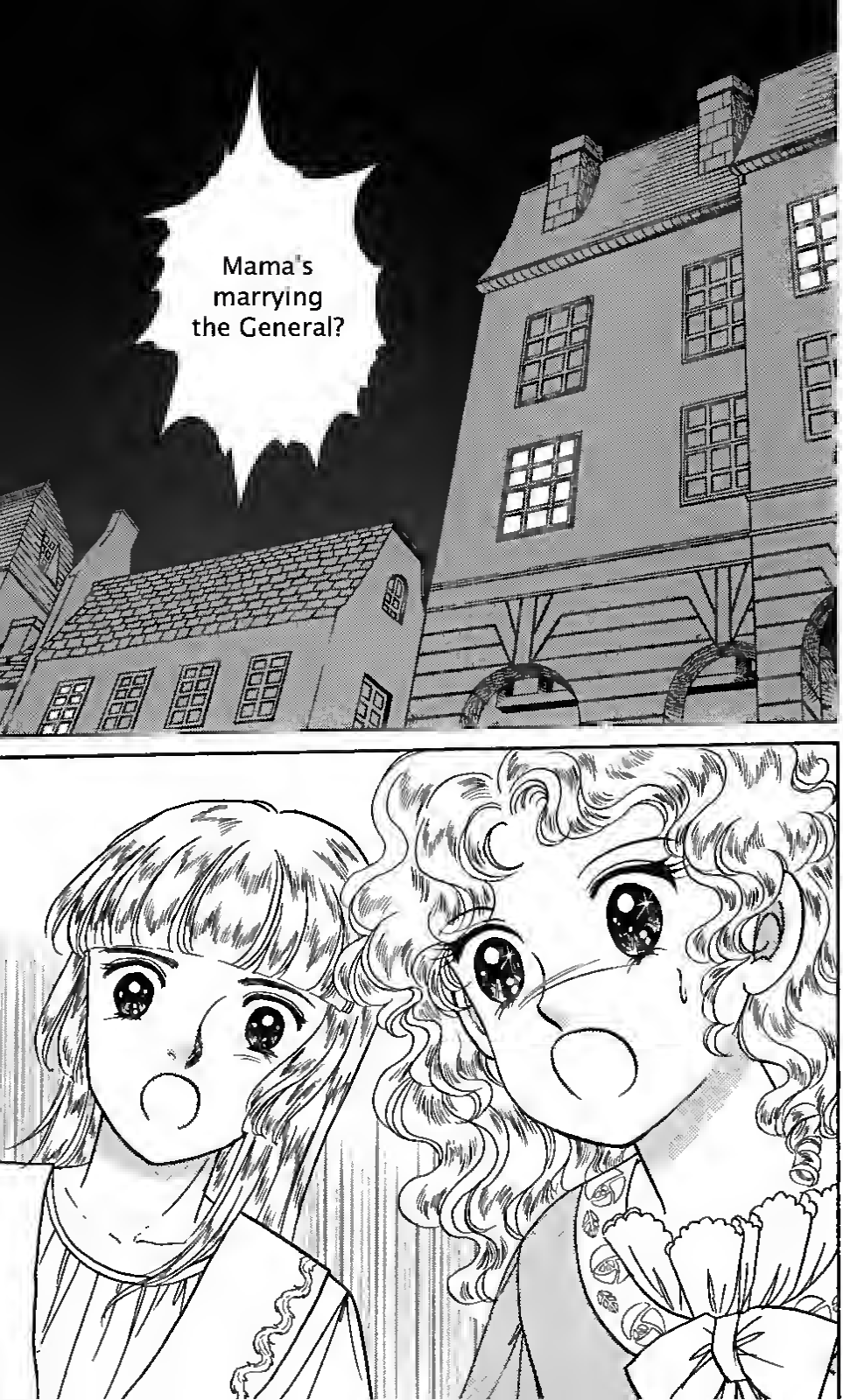
He's strong and powerful
It's our first snowfall
So warm
And he loves me so
You aren't cold?
It's hard to walk
The one person who will truly love me--


I don't care if I don't become greater than the queen...
I'm telling you, mademoiselle, you'll reach incredible heights during your life
Offer true love...
the one person who will truly love you
It's up to you whether you'll be able to find that soul
I just want someone who will be with me forever...

I want a name that I alone can call you by
Everyone at the salon calls you Rose
What would you like to call me?
I want you to marry me
Joseph... Josephine
mumble
Marie-Joseph Rose de Beauharnais...

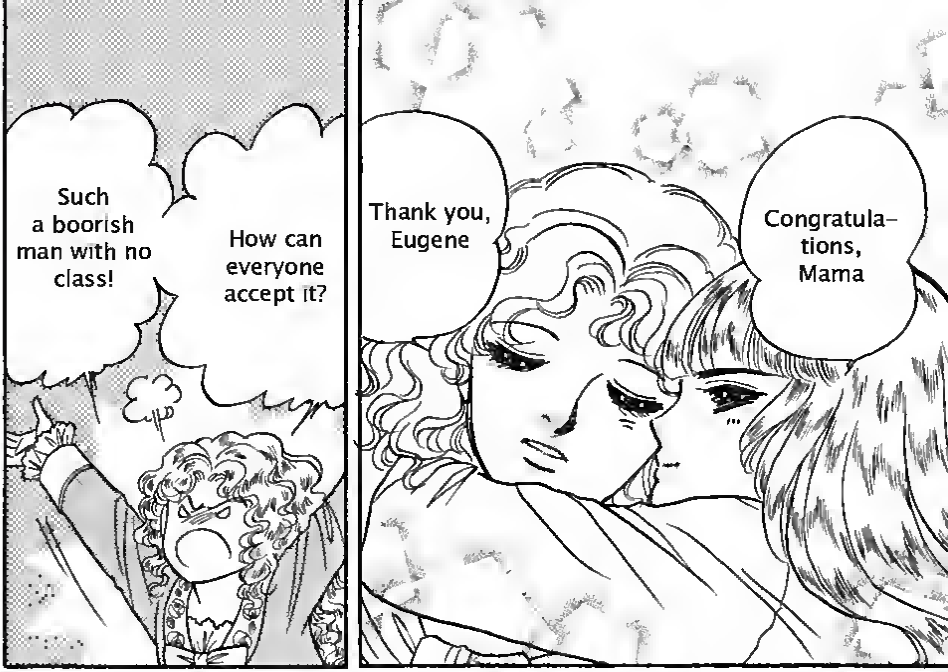
Napoleon Bonaparte
sounds French and lovely
Your name is very hard to pronoun-ce
Will you also change your name for me?
You're my Josephine
Jose-phine...
Napoleon Bonaparte
that's a good name
And I'm your Josephine

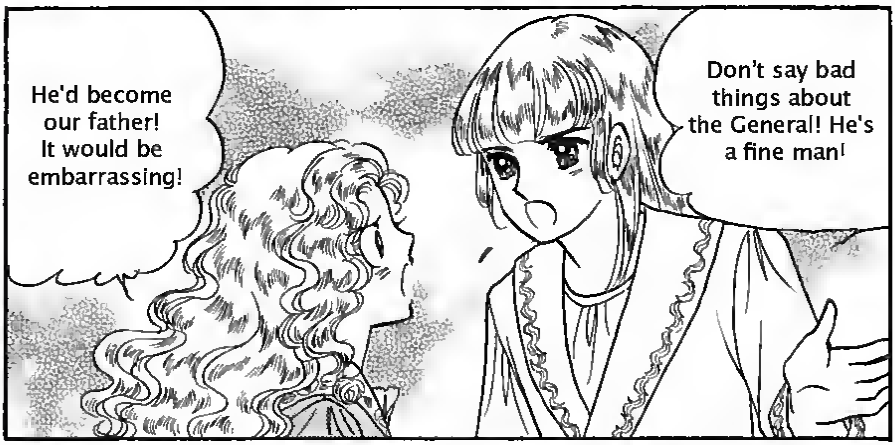
Napoleon and Josephine
It was the start for a couple that would go down in history
They hadn't even dreamed at the time of the destiny that awaited them


Mama's marrying the General?

...Wow
I accepted his proposal the other day
What do you mean, wow?
one evening
Ha ha ha
I noticed he'd been coming over for dinner a lot
No way!
A boorish, vulgar military man like that marrying you?
another evening
And Josephine, you
bump

Sorry, I didn't have a chance to tell you
I just heard myself
You knew, didn't you, Agathe?
...Agathe
Mademoi selle
I felt in my heart that you would be marrying
We're so surprised
Why didn't you tell us?
But you aren't, Agathe
It isn't fair

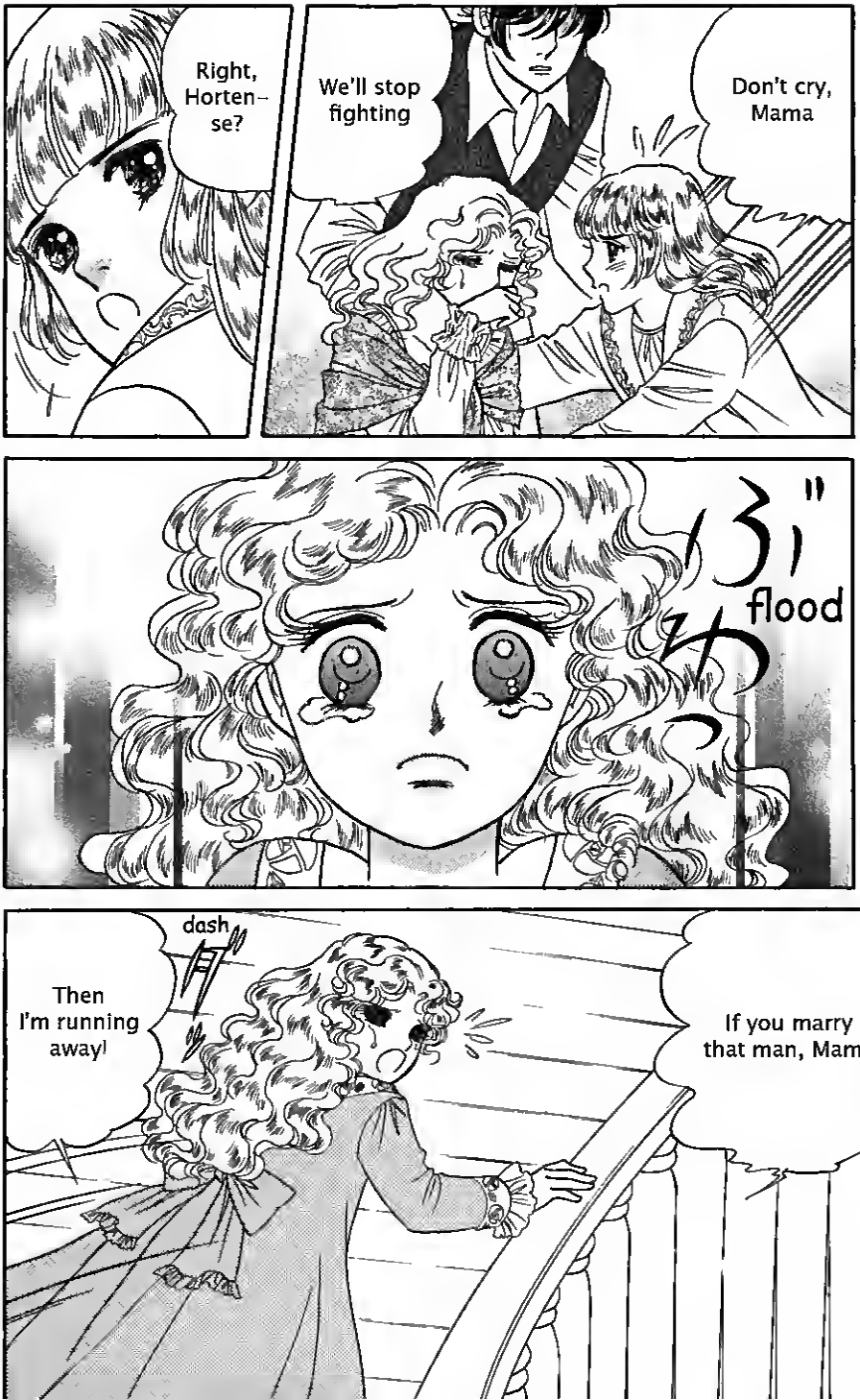

Such a boorish man with no class!
How can everyone accept it?
Thank you, Eugene
Congratula-tions, Mama


He'd become our father! It would be embarrassing!
Don't say bad things about the General! He's a fine man!

Have you forgotten Papa?

I said no bad-mouthing the General!

Okay, you two, don't fight
I won't get married
Papa is a much better man
Of course I haven't forgotten Papa!
I've never seen my children fight like this!
...Made-moiselle ...
It's my fault ..
sob


Right, Horten-se?
We'll stop fighting
Don't cry, Mama
13" flood
dash
Then I'm running away!
If you marry that man, Mama

She's exactly like Mademoiselle ...
She's just like Mama ...
slam
waa
waa
waa
Bonaparte?

I'm sorry
It...it was tough to come in
Did you hear that?
It has to be a shock being compared to Viscount Beauharnais
Talk about bad timing
No matter what anyone says, I love you and I promise I'll make your kids happy
Josephine

I can't bear to see your tears
So please stop crying
Bona-parte...
Let's go back to our rooms, Master Eugene
Yes...
squeeze

Hey, Agathe?
You've shown today what a man you are
Napoleon Bonaparte-I heard that Mademoiselle had given you a more French name
She'll be okay, even when she's lonely without us
The General really loves Mama, doesn't he?
Yes

...She hasn't...?
The door to Hortense's room is open
Hortense?
She's not here
naaay

The stable!
Mlle. Hortense can't ride
I taught her
She wanted to learn to ride
How good is she?
naaay
naaay
Terrible
clomp
clomp

She took off on a horse!
Agathe? Eugene?
What about Hortense?
She what?
Napoleon, I'm borrowing your horse
I should still be able to catch up to her

Wait, I'm coming, too
I'll borrow a horse next door
a donkey
Sorry, I came on a donkey today
It's such a smooth ride
I'll be sure to bring Mlle. Hortense home
splash
You stay with Made-moiselle
It's quicker if two people are out looking for her!
Stay with your Mama, Eugene
Mama!
If something happens to Hortense...

are also important to me
The precious children of you, my beloved
Bona-parte...
Gene-ral...
Yes...he's kind and full of love
Don't worry, Mama. Hortense will understand

Mlle. Horte nse!
Mlle. Horte nse-
The rain's worse than I thought
naaay
The horse she took tends to head for the forest if the rider's inexperienced
From the cabin of the keeper of the forest
A horse's cry?

You guys wait here
...She took this wretched road?
It's the horse she took
Mlle. Hortense!
She had to have passed through
the tree branches are broken off at her height
Mlle. Hortense!
Mlle. Hortense!
...Agathe

Agathe!
Mlle. Horten-se!
Aga-the...
あぁん waa
I'm sorry
I was so scared
あぁん waa
waa
Mlle. Horten-se
ふぅ phew
There's strength in her crying
She's safe

It's dangerous to go out there in the dark
We'll stay here until daylight
I'm sorry about worrying you
No funny praise, okay?
You're your mother's daughter, all right
You did good, finding a spot out of the wind and rain
Father sometimes visited and it's full of good memories
I thought I could get there through this forest
I wanted to go to our home in Fontainebleau
Now take Papa's hand...
Sword fighting for Eugene...and I'll teach you to dance, Hortense

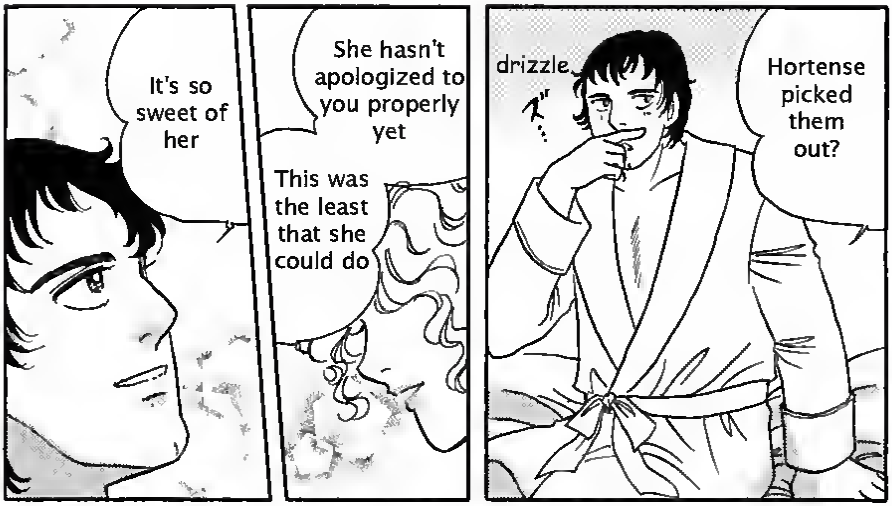
Even her personality is so like her mother
She's relaxed and fallen asleep
Mlle. Hortense?
Agathe...
I believe what Eliama said
I'll be a woman who's greater than the queen
It's the King's fox hunt procession, Agathe
Some day I'll lead that group

Mademoiselle's wish will come true if he becomes king
Is there I can do to help make that happen?
Anything?
A king? Napoleon?
But Napo-leon isn't a king

There you are
I've been looking for you all night
Ah, you're safe, Mlle. Hortense
Good, good
You were wandering around the forest all night in the rain?
That's reckless! You're soaked!
A military man is made to withstand something like this
Ha ha ha
はっはっは
ah-choo
くしゅん
so boorish, so without class...
Napol-eon..

I've come for you, Mlle. Hortense
looking for me-
Soaking wet in the dark forest..
Searching for me all night when you know I'm against your marriage to Mama
Let's go back...your mother is worried about you
so you and Eugene are very special to me
I love your mother with all my heart
Good-bye Papa...
Good-bye my childhood
Now take Papa's hand...

I'll go home...
grip
ah-choo
ah-choo
Hortense went and picked them out at Charles's shop as soon as she got home
We have clothes for you to change into
Are you all right?


It's so sweet of her
She hasn't apologized to you properly yet
This was the least that she could do
drizzle
Hortense picked them out?

This incident became the basis of the powerful ally that Napoleon found in Hortense for life

But the biggest obstacle for the marriage was actually on Napoleon's side

Bonaparte

My children and I all love you

But Corsica's pretty far from here–isn't it a lot of trouble?
Don't be so surprised, they just want to see my beautiful bride
What?
Your mother and siblings are coming to see Mademoiselle?
They left Corsica?
My brother got married there
They left Corsica sometime ago and now live in Marseilles
Then maybe we should invite Mme. Desirée from Paris. She's like a mother to Mademoiselle
I see ...
But my father died of cancer at an early age and my mother supported us alone
Our ancestors were old landowners in Corsica but they lost the war of independence and joined the French forces
The blood line received recognition and they became nobles

spurt
De... Desi-rée?
. Uh
What?
Josephine's aunt .. Desirée, huh?
The sister of Made-moi-selle's father
Fiancée?
I was just surprised. It's the same name as my fiancée

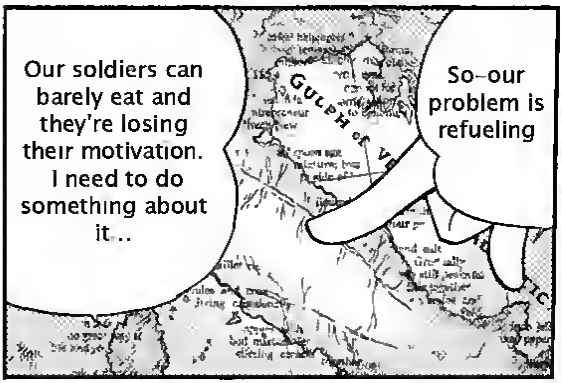
grab
You have a fiancée and you went ahead and proposed to Mademoiselle?
Wait
you're scary
And?
she's my brother's wife's sister
Her name is Desirée Clary
cough
Settle down a minute. Listen to me!
The engagement was just talk. I don't even remember what she looks like
I went right back to Paris and got busy with the revolution, no time to see her
Talk came up at my brother's wedding that 15-year-old Desirée and I would be next...

You don't still have feelings for her, do you?
Don't you believe me? I'm telling you the truth!
...
She's the only one for me!
My heart is filled with Josephine!
I treasure my friendships, too
I know
But I won't let you get away with it if you dare hurt her
...Okay, I believe you

I've read everything that the Beauharnais have
Yes, on military tactics
Uh, you came to borrow some books from me, right?
Take a look at this map
thump
Actual combat?
Aren't you interested in actual combat?
That's impressive
rustle
Yeah. The Austrians have crossed the border and they're planning to advance to France
A map of Italy?

the eleventh of March
When are you heading out?
Yup. They don't want the revolution to be contagious
ITALY
France is surrounded by countries that want to defeat the revolutionary government
I want to give my beautiful Josephine a comfortable life
Barras gave me the important post of commander-in-chief to Italy as a wedding present-and I'll get better pay
But your wedding's on the ninth!
The ele-venth?
Don't tell Josephine till the day of the wedding
Eliama had said in the past...
Bonapar-te..

Agathe...hey, are you listening?
Uh yeah

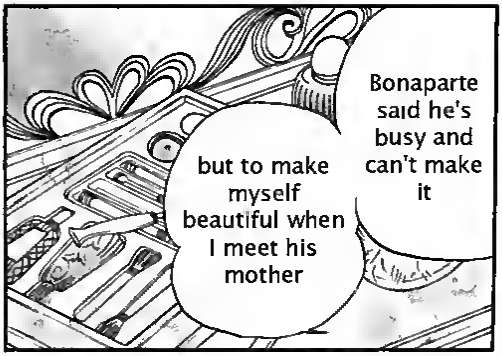

So-our problem is refueling
Our soldiers can barely eat and they're losing their motivation. I need to do something about it..

Surely there's plenty to eat in Italy
You can buy directly from nearby farmers

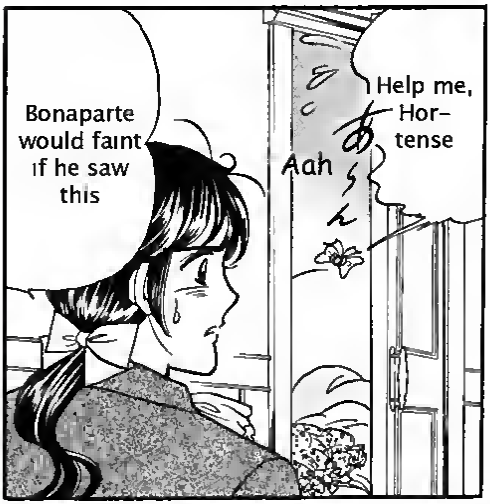
Rather than transporting goods from Paris-I see!
It's so simple but we're used to transporting everything and I didn't realize!

It's just one person who will truly love you, Mademoiselle Rose
It's up to you whether you'll be able to find that soul
She might have found that person

We can defeat the enemy-yes! It's a great plan
Have the cavalry attack from upstream
You can use this bridge, Bonaparte
Secure the bridge from both sides of the Po River
An advi-sor...
I'd use you as an advisor if you were military, Agathe
Would you really use me?


Bonaparte said he's busy and can't make it
but to make myself beautiful when I meet his mother

I don't know what I should wear
How should I do my hair? With what ornaments?


Help me, Hortense
Aah
Bonaparte would faint if he saw this

Your guests have arrived
Napoleon's mother Maria, his younger brother Louis, and sisters Pauline and Caroline visited on that day
ta-da

Mother, your voice is too loud
Oh, but it's true
stare
stare
It's a small house
stare
whisper
Isn't he, Caro-line?
I wonder who he is-he's cute
Mm
Please come this way, we would like to welcome you with fine tea
Welcome
Please step in
this is nerve-wracking

...Mo-
ther
Desirée's family is well off so they have better china
This china's shabby
ctere
It's our brother's feelings that count
Mother, it's a bit late for that
If only he'd married Desirée
mumble mumble
Madame Bonaparte and his dear siblings,
slip
I would like to welcome you all
Right?
glance
smile

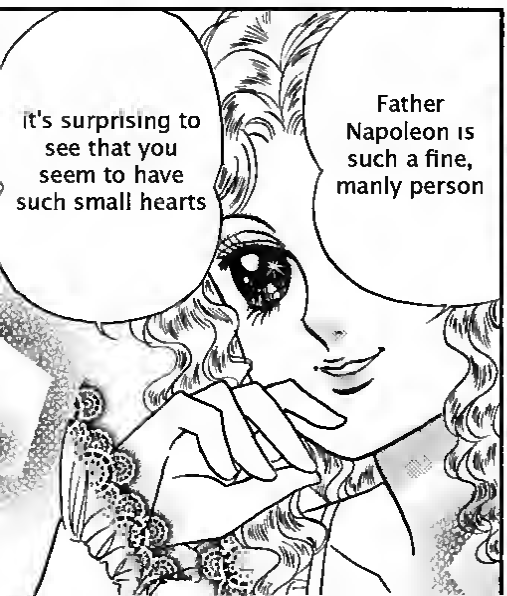
what a lovely dress
I'm Pauline
How do you do, I am Josephine
I'm Caro-line
She's a goddess, just like he said
I'm Louis
What do you mean, Bonaparte?
I am Napoleone's mother Maria
That's what everyone calls your son in Paris, madame
Napoleon Bonaparte
にっこり smile

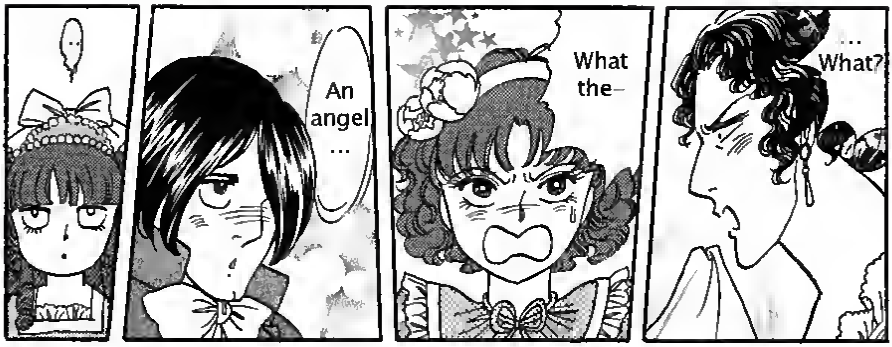
Our head chef has a splendid reputation
Really? It tastes cheap
The bread's hard
The flavor's weak
I'd like to make it clear that I would like to have grandchildren by my son
Can you have babies?
Of course not
She's six years older than our brother
ouch

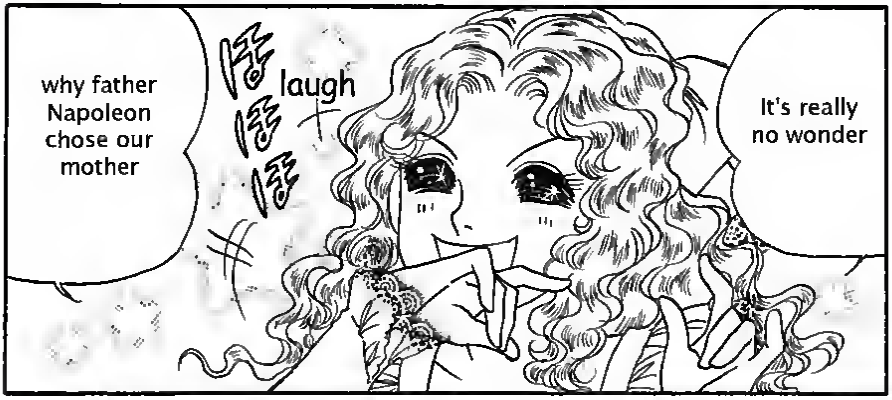
That won't do
You have to give us a son
She can't, she's over the hill
What's with these people?
What do they want to say to me?
grr...
Yes, I wonder why he chose you
There must be many pretty young ladies who are interested in him
I have particularly high expectations for Napoleone
Mademoiselle!
That's it
clatter
This is father's family?
What a surprise!

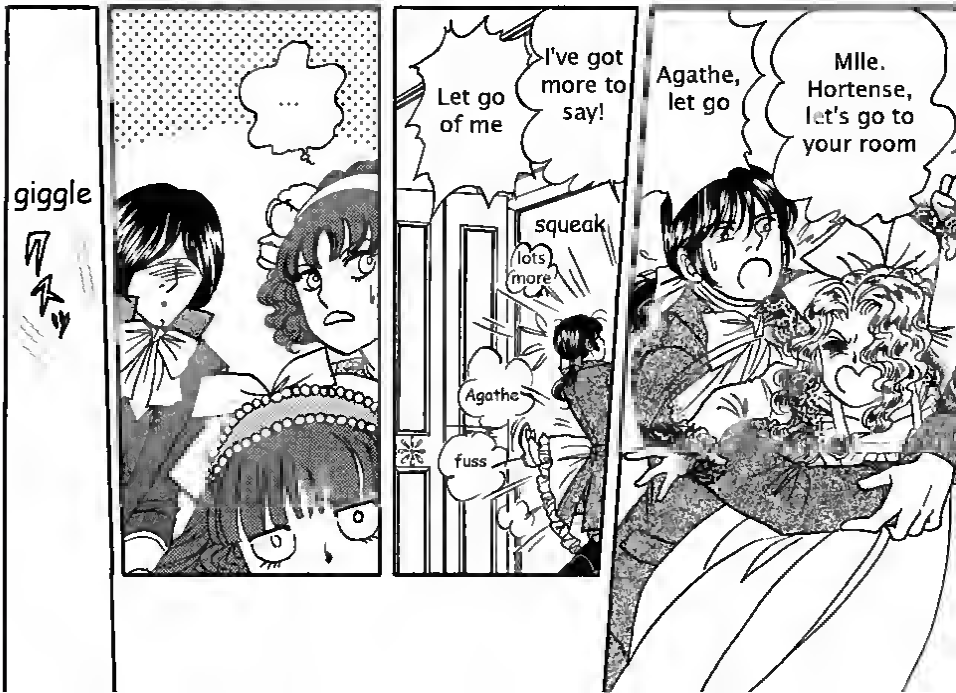
and we were looking forward to meeting you
He told us about you

Horten-se?


it's surprising to see that you seem to have such small hearts
Father Napoleon is such a fine, manly person


An angel ...
What the–
... What?


why father Napoleon chose our mother
laugh
It's really no wonder


giggle
...
Let go of me
I've got more to say!
squeak
lots more
Agathe
fuss
Agathe, let go
Mlle. Hortense, let's go to your room

I can't hold it back any-more
blegh
giggle giggle
What a rude woman
What's so funny?
ha ha ha
I'm sorry
Oh, I can't stop laughing
Bonaparte chose me and I chose him-that's all that matters
Call me rude, over the hill, whatever you like

phew
I hope we can get along, madame
Bonaparte's family has left?

It was like watching you as a girl
I was surprised seeing Hortense like that
phew
Yes, they were taking it out on their coachman
You may have been more energetic
pour
Was I that bad a tomboy?
giggle

How are the wedding preparations coming along?
...
I'm so lucky to be able to drink it every day
The tea that you pour is really delicious
Of course
It's no big deal, it's just a small ceremony with several witnesses before a notary
You're one of them, okay?
Every-thing would start after the wedding

Jose-
phine's
destiny
The
desti-
nies of
Agathe
and
Bonapa
rte
It
would
all gain
momen-
tum
after the
wedding

Josephine of the Roses Part III
The end

Illust Collection

Josephine the French Rose 3

Manga art by Yumiko Igarashi
Story Kaoru Ochiai

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